

CHAPTER 2

COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



COLLARED LIZARD IN RABBIT VALLEY

COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision

CHAPTER 2—RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

2.1 Introduction

The Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) was officially designated on October 24, 2000, when the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Act of 2000 (the CCNCA Act) became Public Law 106-353. The Act designating the CCNCA requires the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to develop a comprehensive Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the long-range protection and management of the CCNCA. This RMP incorporates the BLM core objective of multiple use, allowing for as wide a range of activity as possible, while protecting these spectacular resources for future use and enjoyment. This document, which took over two years to produce, was done in collaboration with our cooperating agency partners. In addition, local citizens; organizations; local and state governments, and other federal agencies worked steadily with us to produce a resource management plan that addresses intergovernmental issues and is consistent with the Bureau's mission and policies.

A federally authorized Advisory Council was established to assist the BLM in developing and implementing the CCNCA RMP. The CCNCA Advisory Council comprises ten members of the public representing various popular uses of the area. To further facilitate the planning process, Working Groups were formed based on four major geographic areas in the CCNCA – Mack Ridge, Rabbit Valley, the Colorado River Corridor, and the Wilderness. Each planning zone offers unique settings for recreation opportunities (see Figure 2-1).

2.1.1 Purpose of and Need for Action

The need for the CCNCA Resource Management Plan is to fulfill the requirement of The CCNCA Act to develop a comprehensive management plan for the long range protection of the special and unique values of the public lands making up the CCNCA, including the Black Ridge Canyons, Ruby Canyon, and Rabbit Valley.

The purpose of the RMP is to develop a public document that defines management policies and will guide management of the CCNCA for the next 10-15 years.

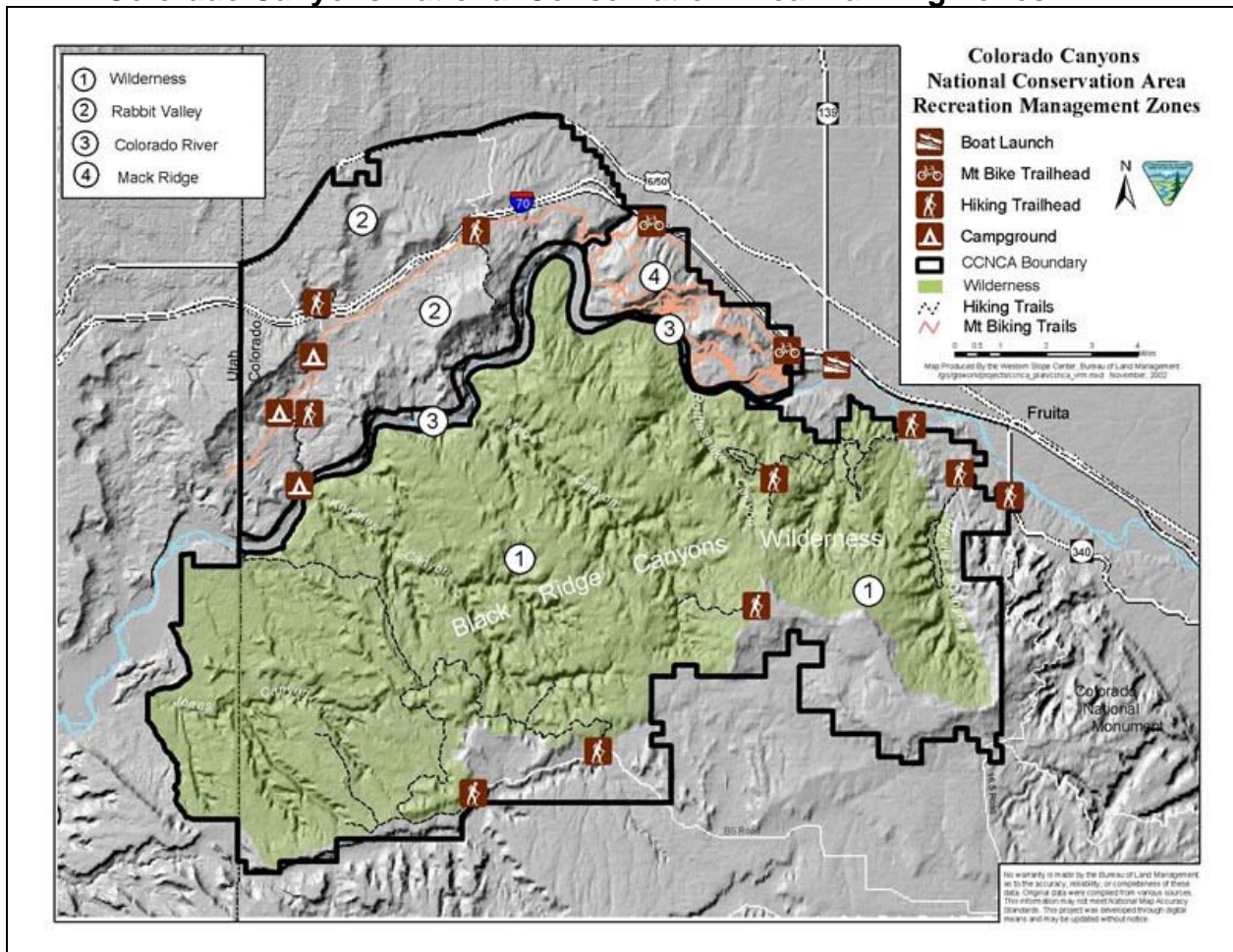
The RMP specifies goals and objectives for the management of future use, defines recreation management updates the existing management policies for public lands in the NCA and the resource allocations affecting the NCA; incorporates available new data; resolves issues identified during public scoping; and integrates or modifies uses of public land that have occurred since the Ruby Canyon/Black Ridge Plan was completed. In addition, the RMP provides public land management measures in accordance with the FLPMA and BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1610-1.

2.1.2 Description and Map of the Planning Area

The 122,300-acre CCNCA, located west of Grand Junction, Colorado, is a collage of natural wonders featuring rugged sandstone canyons, natural arches, spires, and alcoves carved into the Colorado Plateau, through which runs a 24-mile stretch of the Colorado River. Included in the CCNCA are 75,550 acres of Wilderness designated as the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness (BRCW) with 5,200 acres extending into eastern Utah at the CCNCA's western boundary.

The CCNCA offers a broad variety of resources and recreation opportunities resulting in users with diverse interests, including hiking, biking, float boating, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife watching, backpacking, camping, and grazing resources; as well as world-renowned geological, paleontological and scientific sites.

Figure 2-1
Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Planning Zones



The four planning zones, as mentioned above, and their typical activities are:

Table 2-1
CCNCA Planning Zones and Primary Activities

Mack Ridge Zone	Mountain bike riding and horseback riding
Rabbit Valley Zone	Off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding, hiking, Native American rock art viewing, camping, wildlife watching, mountain bike riding, horseback riding, and grazing
Wilderness Zone	Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, grazing, and hunting
River Corridor Zone	Boating, hiking, and camping

2.1.3 Planning Issues Developed During Scoping

A planning issue is defined as a matter of controversy, dispute, or general concern over resource management activities, the environment, or land uses. While planning issues drive the RMP, many other basic environmental and management issues are also addressed to provide comprehensive management guidance for all resources and to satisfy legal requirements.

In this planning process, each Working Group identified planning issues specific to each of the four planning zones within the CCNCA. Management recommendations were then developed by those groups, reviewed by the BLM interdisciplinary team of resource experts, and presented to the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council discussed these issues and, based on public input and the discussions, made recommendations to the CCNCA. Listed below are some of the identified issues that were identified through the scoping process and addressed in the CCNCA RMP:

- Will land parcels bordering the CCNCA be acquired?
- What type of education, information, and interpretation will be provided to visitors?
- Will group-use areas for picnics, camping, and events be provided?
- How will designated and dispersed camping be addressed?
- Will private inholdings be acquired and what uses will be allowed on them if they are?
- How will critical wildlife habitat areas be managed?
- Will requirements for fire pans and human waste disposal systems remain or become more comprehensive?
- How will noxious weeds, especially tamarisk, be controlled?

- Will a monitoring plan be developed to identify significant deterioration of natural resources?
- When and where can a permit/fee system be expected?
- Will group sizes be restricted?
- How can management actions be enforced?
- How will access to the Wilderness be maintained?
- How will urban/Wilderness interface issues be managed?

2.1.4 Planning Criteria

Planning criteria identify the legal, policy, and regulatory constraints that direct the BLM or limit the agency's ability to resolve issues. Planning criteria are based on standards prescribed by applicable law and regulations, agency guidance, information pertinent to the planning area, as well as coordination with other government agencies and the public. These criteria guide the BLM in developing management alternatives for the CCNCA and include the following:

- The RMP is a comprehensive management plan for the long-range protection and management of the CCNCA and BRCW.
- The RMP reflects the legislative intent to conserve, protect, and enhance the area to benefit current and future generations and the unique and nationally important values of the land.
- The RMP complies with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 and all other applicable laws. It meets the requirements of Public Law 106-353, designating the CCNCA, to protect its natural resources and outstanding recreation opportunities.
- The planning process includes an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will comply with the standards of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.
- The planning process involves the local community and recognizes the results of previous collaborative planning efforts, most notably the Ruby Canyon/Black Ridge Integrated Resource Management Plan.
- To enhance community involvement in the planning process, an Advisory Council has been established to advise the BLM on RMP development and implementation.
- The planning process involves consultation with Native American tribes and provides strategies for protecting recognized traditional uses and areas of cultural and religious significance.
- The RMP considers the geological, cultural, paleontological, natural, scientific, recreational, environmental, biological, wilderness, wildlife education, and scenic resources, allowing establishment of interpretive sites or facilities designed to protect these resources.
- The RMP sets in place management goals and objectives for the 75,550 acres designated as the BRCW, as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System and in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964.
- The RMP recognizes that neither the CCNCA nor the Wilderness shall include any part of the Colorado River.

- The RMP establishes travel management goals and actions to allow motorized vehicle use only on roads and trails designated for motorized use; no cross-country, motorized travel is allowed.
- The RMP allows continued management of grazing leases and permits in accordance with current BLM policy and with the Wilderness Act.
- The RMP recognizes the Colorado Division of Wildlife's (CDOW) responsibility to manage wildlife on BLM-managed lands. The BLM consults with CDOW in establishing policy for the purposes of protecting public safety, administration, and public use and enjoyment.
- The RMP provides for continued management of the utility corridor, Black Ridge Communication Site, and Federal Aviation Administration Site.
- It has been recognized, throughout the planning process, that recommended actions cannot effectively establish buffer zones adjacent to the CCNCA boundary.
- The RMP encourages the acquisition of private inholdings within the CCNCA and Wilderness, while continuing to allow reasonable access to private landowners.
- Decisions in the RMP strive to comply with existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, and federal agencies, as long as the decisions conform to the CCNCA legislation, other laws and regulations, and other applicable legal or regulatory guidance.
- Known cultural resources are assigned to use allocations with associated management goals and prescriptions to achieve these goals.

2.1.5 Planning Process

Management of the area has most recently been guided by the Ruby Canyon/Black Ridge Integrated Resource Management Plan (1998) and the CCNCA Act. Additional guidance has been provided by the Grand Junction Resource Management Plan (1987), the Grand (UT) Resource Area Management Plan (1985) addressing the Utah portion of the CCNCA), and several other activity-level management plans covering recreation, wildlife, grazing, and watershed management. All of these plans have provided a basis for the development of the new CCNCA RMP, which will supercede all previous plans upon finalization and release.

The planning process for the RMP began on December 12, 2001, with publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register. The BLM met with the public over 130 times in 18 months. This document represents collaboration and communication among local citizens; organizations; and local, state, and federal governments throughout the past two years. A federally authorized Advisory Council was established to assist the BLM in developing and implementing the CCNCA PRMP. The CCNCA Advisory Council comprises ten members of the public representing various popular uses of the area. The BLM worked extensively with citizen-based Working Groups that could effectively support the planning process. This planning program also included project newsletters, field trips, numerous presentations and media spots, publishing a project web site (www.co.blm.gov/cocanplan), issuing press releases, and holding public open houses in both Grand Junction and Fruita.

Following the initial phase of public scoping, the draft RMP/EIS was made available to the public for a 90-day comment period from October 17, 2003 until January 30, 2004. The NOA for the proposed RMP/Final EIS was published by the BLM in the Federal Register July 30, 2004 and the formal publication date for the CCNCA RMP came when the EPA issued the NOA for the Final EIS on August 6, 2004. The 39 day protest period for the proposed RMP ended on September 7, 2004. No formal protests were received and this document represents the approved Resource Management Plan for the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area.

Collaboration

A community-based planning process was used to gather public input and address resource issues. Consultation with all interested Native American tribes was initiated early in the process. The BLM met with both the Southern Ute and Northern Ute Indian Tribes and continues to work closely with the Colorado National Monument (National Park Service), the Bureau of Reclamation, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Division of Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the city of Fruita, Mesa County, Colorado, and the BLM Moab Field Office (Utah). The BLM has also consulted and coordinated planning activities with federal, state, county, and local government elected officials and representatives. Communication is ongoing and will continue through the finalization of this plan and beyond to its implementation.

On August 8, 2002 the BLM entered into Cooperating Agency status with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. Benefits resulting from the cooperating agency agreement include:

- Sharing and disclosing relevant information early in the analytical process.
- Applying available technical expertise and staff support.
- Avoiding duplication with State procedures.
- Establishing a mechanism for addressing intergovernmental issues.
- Building a common understanding and appreciation for various governmental roles in the NEPA process, as well as helping to assure successful completion and adoption of environmental documents.

Both the Colorado National Monument and the City of Fruita are engaged in planning efforts and have worked closely with the CCNCA management and planning staff to ensure that common goals are addressed in all plans. Linked trails and cooperative management of neighboring locations are examples of how actions can be implemented to minimize surface disturbance and resource impacts from redundant trail systems.

2.1.6 Related Plans

Many agencies in the Grand Valley have recently undertaken, or completed, planning efforts. Agencies with land-use or resource management planning efforts in the local area include:

Mesa County

-Mesa County Master Plan

- Fruita/Mesa County Greenway Business Park Plan
- Loma/Mack Rural Communities Plan
- Redlands Plan

Fruita

- Fruita Community Plan 2020
- Highway 340 Corridor Plan
- Redlands Area Transportation Study
- Fruita/Mesa County Greenway Business Park Plan

Grand Junction

- City of Grand Junction Strategic Plan 2002-2012
- The Grand Valley Community Vision for the Year 2020

National Park Service

- Colorado National Monument General Management Plan

United States Forest Service

- Grand Mesa Travel Plan
- Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison Land and Resource Management Plan

BLM

- Billings Canyon Environmental Assessment
- Bangs Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan
- North Fruita Desert Recreation Area Management Plan
- Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan And Environmental Impact Statement (Uncompahgre Field Office – Montrose)
- Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan – Glenwood Springs Field Office

On a regional scale, the local planning area is considered to be Mesa County and includes the Colorado National Monument; Grand Mesa National Forest; and the cities of Grand Junction, Fruita, Palisade, Loma, and Mack. Throughout the planning process these agencies and municipalities have been involved in helping the BLM develop a vision for the management of the CCNCA. The goals and objectives of the plans listed above, for each of these agencies, are consistent with the goals and objectives of the CCNCA RMP; to preserve the unique resources of the area and to protect the amenities that the area offers its local population as well as those uses drawing visitors worldwide.

2.1.7 Policy and Legislative Constraints

The CCNCA enabling legislation (The Act) specifically states that the land within the CCNCA is withdrawn from entry, appropriation, patent, or disposal under any public land laws, mining laws, and mineral/geothermal leasing laws. Activities in the Black Ridge Canyons are to be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act. The Black Ridge Canyons area has been managed as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) for many years, and the Wilderness designation will have little impact on most current activities. Valid

existing rights, including grazing allotments, will continue to be recognized. In addition, associated rights of access will be allowed in the same scope and frequency as before the Wilderness designation. The Wilderness Act does not allow for roads (permanent or temporary); use of motor vehicles or boats, or any form of mechanical transport; use of motorized equipment; landing of aircraft; facilities, structures, or installations; or commercial enterprise within a Wilderness area. Historical use, authorized access by grazing permittees, wildlife management agencies, and, in emergency situations, fire or rescue operations may prompt cases of permitted, nonconforming use.

The legislation also included specific directives for some activities in the CCNCA:

“Off-Highway Vehicle Use...shall be allowed only on roads and trails designated for use of motor vehicles in the management plan...”

Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing...shall be allowed within the Conservation Area and the Wilderness in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of the United States and the States of Colorado and Utah.

Grazing...the Secretary shall issue and administer any grazing leases or permits in the Conservation Area and the Wilderness in accordance with the same laws (including regulations) and Executive orders followed by the Secretary in issuing and administering grazing leases and permits on other land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.”

The Act included requirements for the RMP as follows:

“The management plan shall... (A) describe the appropriate uses and management of the Conservation Area and the Wilderness; (B) take into consideration any information developed in studies of the land within the Conservation Area or the Wilderness; (C) provide for the continued management of the utility corridor, Black Ridge Communications Site, and the Federal Aviation Administration Site as such for the land designated on the Map as utility corridor, Black Ridge Communications Site, and the Federal Aviation Administration Site; (D) take into consideration the historical involvement of the local community in the interpretation and protection of the resources of the Conservation Area and the Wilderness, as well as the Ruby Canyon/Black Ridge Integrated Resource Management Plan, dated March 1998, which was the result of collaborative efforts on the part of the Bureau of Land Management and the local community...”

The Act also states that *“Neither the Conservation Area nor the Wilderness shall include any part of the Colorado River to the 100-year high water mark.”* This eliminates the Colorado River itself from the CCNCA but does not preclude BLM management of river access and river corridor issues.

Overall Vision

The purpose of the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan is to provide an adaptive framework for the conservation, protection, and enhancement, for the benefit and enjoyment of both present and future generations, the nationally important values of the public lands making up the 122,300 acres of the CCNCA, including the 75,550-acre Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness.

2.2 Management Decisions

Through more than 100 community-based meetings and planning activities scheduled over a 14-month period, the following management goals and objectives were formulated to guide management of the CCNCA for the next 10 to 15 years.

Management Goals

- Preserve and protect the nationally significant area for the enjoyment of present and future generations.
- Adaptively manage the CCNCA to maintain the current level of enjoyment of the area's recreational opportunities and unique characteristics while recognizing that increased future use will trigger the need for increased levels of management.
- Manage a diversity of physical, social and administrative settings to facilitate
- Monitor for land health and visitors' beneficial experience to determine when increased levels of management are required.

Management Objectives

- Preserve the character of the CCNCA.
- Preserve and enhance traditional recreation activities—hiking, camping, mountain biking, OHV use, horseback riding, hunting, and boating.
- Maintain land health and improve priority areas of concern.
- Maintain and manage grazing for sustainability and conservation in accordance with land health guidelines and standards for rangeland health.
- Plan effective travel management while allowing motorized vehicle use only on roads and trails designated for motorized use.
- Expand education and interpretation opportunities in all areas.

2.3 Management Actions

Most of the actions listed in this section represent a public consensus on desired future conditions reached through extensive collaboration during the planning process. Some are land use plan (LUP) decisions, some are activity-level decisions (implementation decisions). In the following description, implementation decisions are denoted by an **(I)**. All other decisions are LUP decisions.

A decision is most likely an implementation decision if it represents BLM's final approval for a specific management action, activity, or use. These types of decisions require site-specific planning and NEPA analysis. Unlike LUP decisions, implementation decisions are not subject to protest under the planning regulations. Instead, implementation decisions are subject to various administrative remedies, primarily appeals to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). Specific program regulations may describe other administrative review processes. In cases where implementation decisions are made as part of an RMP planning process, the implementation decisions are still subject to the appeals process or other administrative review as prescribed by program regulations since they are not part of the RMP and are not LUP decisions.

It is important to note that, for each of these actions that follow, site-specific analysis will be necessary to determine if further analysis required by NEPA is necessary for any on-the-ground activity prior to any irretrievable commitment of resources or ground disturbing activity. In addition, the implementation of all actions is subject to available resources and budget constraints.

Lands and Rights-of-Way

The BLM will continue to acquire, from willing sellers, private in-holdings within the CCNCA boundaries as well as along the boundaries.

Rights-of-Way (ROW) proposals will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to constraints, sensitive resource areas, and issues identified in the CCNCA plan and other applicable documents and policies.

Utility line proposals, from within the Interstate 70 (I-70) corridor to the Colorado River or in the upper Black Ridge road area, will be required to be located underground and along the edge of or within roadways, or within the railroad right-of-way. Additions or modifications to aboveground utilities will only be considered within the existing utility corridors where aboveground facilities presently exist. Underground utility proposals will also be considered in these existing corridors. ROWs will be excluded from the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness (BRCW) area.

All roads administered by the BLM will be maintained in their current condition, and no improvement will be permitted through ROW authorizations. Any new roads that could be authorized will be constructed to minimal widths and standards similar to nearby existing "jeep roads." Any such new roads could also be gated to prevent, or limit, public vehicle access.

Additional communication towers at the existing Rabbit Valley Communication Site will be considered if the proposed use was located within 250 feet (ft) of the existing cellular telephone tower, involved a minimal and unlighted tower structure (1.5 ft lattice with wand at top, under 60 ft in height), and was not obvious to a casual observer from the I-70 corridor. Minor additions or modifications of other existing communication sites

(excluding the Black Ridge Site, which has an approved management plan that is consistent with CCNCA objections) will also be considered. In all cases, collocation on existing facilities is preferred. No additional communication sites will be considered at other areas. The BLM reserves the right to develop minor communication facilities for administrative purposes.

I-70 and railroad maintenance or emergency repair will be coordinated with the BLM and actions taken to reasonably protect resource values. The BLM may also request the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to consider removing the requirement for the strobe light on the Upper Black Ridge Railroad Communication Site.

Mesa County and BLM staff will coordinate maintenance activities on Mesa County roads. In response to potential development on private inholdings, the BLM may request Mesa County consideration of land use permitting restrictions on private inholdings for protecting the overall landscape and land use character. Requested restrictions could include limiting land uses or subdivision of property, limiting any development to a portion of the private land, locating and designing developments to minimize adverse impacts to the landscape, limiting use of exterior lights, or providing for limited public access.

Geology and Topography

The BLM will identify important geologic features for possible special management consideration while preserving and protecting the geologic resources.

Soils

The BLM will adhere to Best Management Plan (BMP) and exercise careful placement of proposed trails and facilities. To encourage the protection of soils, activities such as recreation, access and travel routes, and grazing will be managed to minimize erosion, salinity and selenium yields, and compaction. A strong emphasis on minimum impact techniques, through CCNCA visitor education, will be extremely important if protection and conservation of the soil resource for future generations is to be realized.

Minerals and Energy Resources

As specified in the CCNCA enabling legislation (P.L. 106-353), subject to valid existing rights, all federal land within the CCNCA and the BRCW, and all land and interests in land acquired for the Conservation Area or the Wilderness by the United States are withdrawn from:

- 1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;
- 2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- 3) the operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws, and all amendments thereto.

Water Resources

Surface Water

The BLM will manage all activity within the CCNCA to ensure that water quality standards are met, or exceeded, using BLM Land Health Standards (Appendix 1, Standard 5–Water Quality) as the water quality indicator.

All water sources, including both surface water and ground water sources, will be inventoried to determine exact location, flow rates/volumes, types of beneficial uses of water at the location, type of water development, condition of water development, and any sensitive species dependent on the water source.

The recreation, range management, and wildlife programs will identify the location and type of any water shortages that prevent them from meeting management objectives.

BLM will acquire water rights on all water sources within the CCNCA and Wilderness that BLM uses to meet management objectives. Water rights will be sought for livestock, wildlife, and recreation on all water sources that support those uses.

The authorizing legislation specifies that when BLM acquires water rights, BLM will follow the procedural and substantive provisions of Colorado water law.

Any activity in the CCNCA and BRCW will incorporate mitigation into management actions to protect water resources. Measures designed to minimize erosion and water quality deterioration will continue to be required in site-specific plans for any activity requiring surface disturbance in the CCNCA. Measures to minimize erosion and water quality affects will be further analyzed in environmental assessments for any surface disturbing activities in the CCNCA per requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The BLM will work with the Grand Valley Selenium Task Force to address elevated selenium levels in Salt Creek and other entities to minimize sediment and salinity production within the CCNCA.

Ground Water

The BLM will continue to manage to preserve and protect ground water resources, including springs, and will pursue completion of an inventory of springs. Inventoried springs in the CCNCA will not be developed but will continue to be used by hikers and wildlife, as well as to sustain associated riparian areas. The BLM will continue to utilize existing water wells for stock watering purposes.

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The authorizing legislation specifies that when BLM acquires water rights, BLM will follow the procedural and substantive provisions of Colorado water law.

Climate and Air Quality

Activities and projects on BLM-managed lands will comply with applicable local, state, and federal air quality regulations. National Ambient Air Quality Standards will be met, or exceeded, for all activity occurring in the CCNCA. Mitigation to minimize air quality degradation will be incorporated into project proposals as appropriate.

Noise

Public lands will be managed in accordance with Colorado NS 25-12-106.

Vegetation

The BLM will attain, or maintain, DPC objectives determined in the Ruby Canyon/Black Ridge Integrated RMP and will maintain existing areas meeting land health standards (see Appendix 8). Vegetation restoration and reclamation projects will be implemented on those areas currently not meeting land health standards, in concert with other programs that will improve the land health on all priority areas, including the River Corridor, Rabbit Valley, Black Ridge, as well as on other sites that will benefit from treatment for various resources such as sage grouse, desert bighorn, and prairie dogs.

Special emphasis will be given to proper placement of roads and trails, along with rehabilitation and stabilization of existing roads and trails. Emphasis will also be placed on improving plant diversity, particularly in those areas dominated by cheatgrass or crested wheat grass, and in other priority areas. Reclamation and restoration could include the use of non-native plants and chemical treatment.

Vegetation–Weed Management

The BLM will manage noxious weeds using an Integrated Weed Management (IWM) approach, while incorporating weed education information into CCNCA literature, web sites, and key entry points into the CCNCA. The BLM's Partners Against Weeds (PAWs) action plan is a comprehensive strategy providing guidance for preventing and controlling the spread of noxious weeds. Goals of the PAWs plan are prevention and detection, education and awareness, inventory, planning, Integrated Weed

Management, monitoring and evaluation, and research and technology transfer. PAWs and additional guidance such as the Certified Weed-Free Forage Program are integral to the CCNCA weed management program.

There will also be extensive weed inventory and treatment prior to any facility construction, e.g. eliminating weeds before a designated river campsite is constructed.

The BLM will conduct an annual inventory of purple loosestrife and Hoary Cress within the River Corridor, conduct a 3-year inventory cycle for Wilderness, as well as a 5-year inventory for the remaining acreage in the CCNCA.

- **Tamarisk:** The BLM will manage tamarisk around spring sites in the Wilderness, releasing bio agents, if approved, for large-scale reduction in extensive stands. Tamarisk will also be managed at select sites in the River Corridor.
- **Purple Loosestrife:** The BLM will conduct an annual inventory and eradication trips from Loma to Westwater (Utah).
- **Russian Knapweed:** The BLM will continue eradication efforts from Mee Corner to Mee Canyon, along the south bank of the Colorado River. It will also attempt eradication of Russian knapweed on Machinery Bottom and continue Wilderness treatments of Russian knapweed and Canada thistle until completely eradicated.
- **Hoary Cress (Whitetop):** The BLM will conduct annual inventory and eradication trips from Loma to Westwater to control Hoary Cress and will continue treatment of infestations at Salt Creek and I-70.

Forestry

The practice of taking woodland products within the CCNCA will be discontinued. The option of allowing some cutting to facilitate clearing trees for trails, recreation projects, land health initiatives, and wildlife projects will be considered.

Wildlife, Fish and Aquatic Species

The BLM will facilitate Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) population management plans and develop basic informational facilities for the Rabbit Valley Watchable Wildlife Site. The features making Rabbit Valley, north and south of I-70, a designated State Important Bird Area will be protected.

A detailed inventory of fish and wildlife will continue to be developed, and the CCNCA will be managed to maintain the existing species. The BLM, in cooperation with the Colorado National Monument whenever feasible, will work with appropriate wildlife management agencies, including CDOW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to monitor the fish and wildlife and provide information to agency management for actively responding when an impact threshold has been approached. Thresholds will be defined

for each species to the extent of budget constraints. However, any unanticipated discovery could be evaluated for management action.

Special Status Species

In fulfilling all requirements under the Endangered Species Act, as well as BLM Policy Manual 6840, the BLM will meet habitat obligations for the six listed and two candidate species, while continuing to protect 25 BLM-listed sensitive species within the CCNCA. Three species listed under the state endangered species statute will also come under this umbrella. A detailed inventory of Special Status Species will continue to be developed.

Policies of a narrow tolerance for toxicants and pesticides, protection of peregrine eyries, and openness to restoring native species populations will be continued. Habitat improvements for special status species will be implemented and may include water developments, food and cover plot plantings, re-introductions, prairie dog den insecticide dusting, backwater development for native fish, and artificial dens (kit foxes, burrowing owls).

Historic and potential habitat for the Gunnison sage-grouse will be managed to attract and support this species. A strategic plan for managing sage grouse will be drafted by the CDOW and the BLM as outlined in the conservation plan prepared by the Pinyon Mesa Gunnison Sage-grouse Working Group (Graham 2000). It will cover the public land on Pinyon Mesa, Glade Park and the CCNCA. This plan will incorporate guidance from the Gunnison Sage-grouse Range wide Conservation Plan.

The BLM, in cooperation with the Colorado National Monument whenever feasible, will work with appropriate wildlife management agencies, including CDOW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to monitor the Special Status Species and provide information to agency management for actively responding when an impact threshold has been approached. These thresholds will be defined for each species. Nonetheless, unanticipated conditions will also be evaluated for management action.

Rangeland

Grazing use will be in accordance with the Taylor Grazing Act, FLPMA, Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA), 43 CFR 100 and 4180, the Wilderness Act, grazing permits, and BLM Policy.

Current livestock management will be maintained and changes made if monitoring indicates downward trends or a failure to meet standards. Intensive grazing management plans (Allotment Management Plan) will be established for allotments where additional management is deemed necessary. Any grazing permit that is relinquished or canceled will be evaluated for future allocation and level of use.

Additional range improvements will be utilized to improve grazing management in accordance with grazing management plans. Vegetation studies and experiments will be maintained and rehabilitation efforts appropriate for the area will be applied.

Jones Canyon will be added to current exclusions on livestock grazing in Mee, Knowles, and Rattlesnake Canyons to protect riparian values. Other canyons will be monitored to determine if additional exclusions might be necessary in the future. The Colorado River allotment will remain in an unallotted status to protect resources.

Domestic sheep use will be excluded in the Lower Bench and Colorado Ridge allotments and north of Black Ridge via existing agreements. Sheep grazing north of the river will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. Domestic sheep use managed by Utah within the CCNCA will be evaluated when the permit is transferred.

The public will be educated on livestock grazing and its relationship to the environment and natural cycles.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources will be managed according to existing legislation, regulations, Executive Orders, and BLM policy. Measures to protect and manage cultural resources will be required in all land use activity plans, including those associated with recreation management and off-highway vehicle (OHV) activities. Measures will be designed in conjunction with appropriate consulting parties as defined by the BLM National Programmatic Agreement, Colorado State Protocol, and BLM Manual (8100 series) addressing cultural resource management.

Section 106 of the NHPA will be completed for federally funded or licensed undertakings prior to all surface-disturbing or other activities that could affect cultural resources. Identifying cultural resources and areas of religious and cultural importance that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and assigning to the appropriate cultural resource use allocation will occur. Mitigation will be completed on historic properties that are adversely affected by the undertaking. Preservation of resources in place is the preferred mitigation strategy.

Proposed activities will not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented. Cultural resource condition will be monitored during implementation.

Develop and implement a base-level proactive cultural resource program required under Section 110 of the NHPA. A reasonable amount of outreach/customer service work, Native American consultation, interpretation and environmental education, cultural resource inventories, data recovery and recordation efforts, restoration and protection of "at-risk" site efforts, and systematic monitoring of cultural sites treatments are to be completed annually. The level of proactive cultural resource program work will be determined annually within constraints of available funds and staff however, additional

funding to conduct at least 500 acres of Class III inventory per year within the CCNCA will be pursued annually.

Paleontological Resources

Information on paleontological resources will continue to be gathered. A valid BLM Paleontological Resources Use Permit will be required for collection of all vertebrate and other scientifically important fossils. Within the BRCW, BLM scientific and educational surface collecting permits will allow surface collecting of up to a 1-meter by 1-meter square to a 20-inch depth per site. Any scientific collection that will disturb any area greater than that will require that an Environmental Assessment (EA) be done before such disturbance and/or collecting is permitted. Collection and removal will be done by small one-handed tools only.

The entire CCNCA will be closed to all recreational collecting of rocks, minerals, and fossils. No archeological materials such as chipped rocks, arrowheads, or other prehistoric or historic artifacts could be collected.

Recreation

General Management Actions Common to All Areas in the CCNCA:

- Recreation in the CCNCA will be managed for beneficial outcomes. Ten discrete, recreation management units have been identified for the CCNCA (Figure 2-10) and benefits-based management objectives have been written for each of these sub-zones. Each sub-zone exhibits a unique set of recreation opportunities (i.e., consisting of activities, experiences, and benefits), use patterns, and management issues and actions that combine to facilitate the production of a distinctive recreation outcome.
- To support adaptive management of the CCNCA, support and approval for a mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system will be sought for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends, to the BLM and other affected parties.
- During the life of the proposed CCNCA RMP, it can be anticipated that an activity not addressed or analyzed within this plan could become popular enough to result in adverse social and physical impacts. Examples include, but are not limited to, geocaching, hovercrafting, and land sailing. If monitoring and evaluation determine that the activity is having a detrimental impact, the BLM reserves the right to prohibit that use, or to require that the user apply for a special recreation permit until the potential impacts are adequately analyzed and appropriate areas to accommodate the activities are identified.
- There will be no discharging of any projectile, by means of (including but not limited to) firearms, bows, crossbows, and paintball guns with the exception of official law

enforcement activities, certain military operations, and hunting activities in conformance with existing laws and regulations.

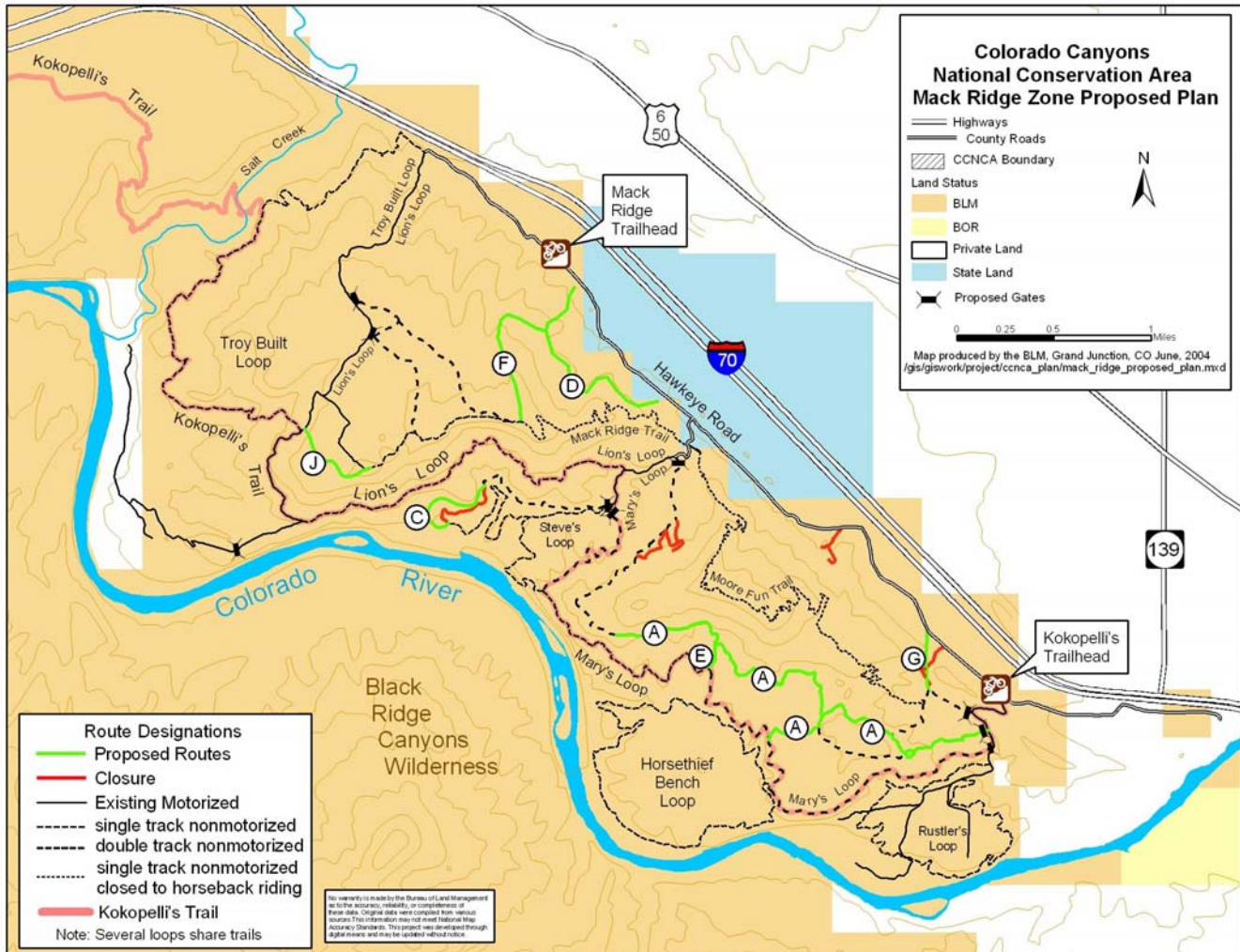
- Hunting will be allowed in conformance with CDOW laws and regulations.
- All motorized and mechanized use will be limited to designated roads and trails.
- The BLM will restore closed roads having no administrative benefit and not included in range allotment agreements.
- All dirt roads to be maintained for public access will be designated, and non-designated roads will be closed.
- As shown on Figure 2-4 (No. 7) some routes north of I-70 will be closed.
- As a way to mitigate impacts, trails will be modified as needed.
- In general, locating trails near known paleontological or cultural sites will be avoided.
- A comprehensive "Interpretive Plan" for the CCNCA considering all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach will be developed.
- The BLM will identify partners and develop Friends organizations to assist with outreach and education. The BLM will also strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public in maintaining the resources through partnerships, adopt-an-area programs, and special events.
- All parking facilities will be contained to prevent gradual encroachment into the surrounding area.

Mack Ridge Planning Zone (Figure 2-3)

- Designated uses for existing trails in the Mack Ridge Zone will be as follows:
 - Horsethief Loop, Kokopelli's Trail (within the Mack Ridge area), Lion's Loop, Mary's Loop, Steve's Loop, Rustler's Loop, and Troy's Loop – hiking, equestrian and mountain bikes.
 - Mack Ridge Trail – hiking and mountain biking to the first intersection with the remainder of the trail allowing equestrian use.
 - Moore Fun Trail – hiking and mountain biking only.
- New trail proposals include the following (Refer to Figure 2-3 for the following trail proposals):

- **(I)** Construct trail segment C to replace the end of the dirt road presently used as part of Steve's Loop.
- **(I)** Equestrian use will be limited to designated trails only.
- **(I)** Trail A will be designated utilizing dirt roads and approximately ½-mile of new construction (single track).
- **(I)** Segment E will be constructed to connect trail segment A and the Mary's Loop Trail.
- **(I)** Construction of a trail running parallel along the south side of the frontage (Hawkeye) road will be considered as a future option if traffic on the frontage road becomes a safety concern.
- **(I)** Connector J will be constructed between the southern-most point of the Troy Built Trail and the end of the Mack Ridge single-track trail.
- **(I)** Trail F will be constructed connecting the Mack Ridge Trail to the Mack Ridge Trailhead.
- **(I)** Segment D connecting segment F to the Mary's Loop access from the frontage road will also be considered, allowing an alternative Mack Ridge Trail route for equestrians.
- **(I)** Segment G will be constructed from the frontage road to the gated dirt road.
- Motorized use will be restricted to the road portion of Lion's Loop to, and including access out to, the Overlook, county roads, and designated parking areas.
- **(I)** A number of roads, or segments of roads, will be closed and restored. This includes the road providing the same access as trail segment G, as well as the end of the road on Steve's Loop providing the same access as segment C. The short, dead-end segment heading south from Hawkeye Road will also be closed and restored, as will the segment adjacent to the dirt road connecting the county road to the west end of trail proposal A.
- **(I)** Roads will be gated or motorized barriers placed at 9 locations as shown on Figure 2-3.
- The Mack Ridge area will be designated for day-use only, with fires, camping and nighttime use prohibited. Exceptions to this will be allowed only under special circumstances and with the approval of the CCNCA or Grand Junction Field Office manager.

**Figure 2-3
Mack Ridge Planning Zone**

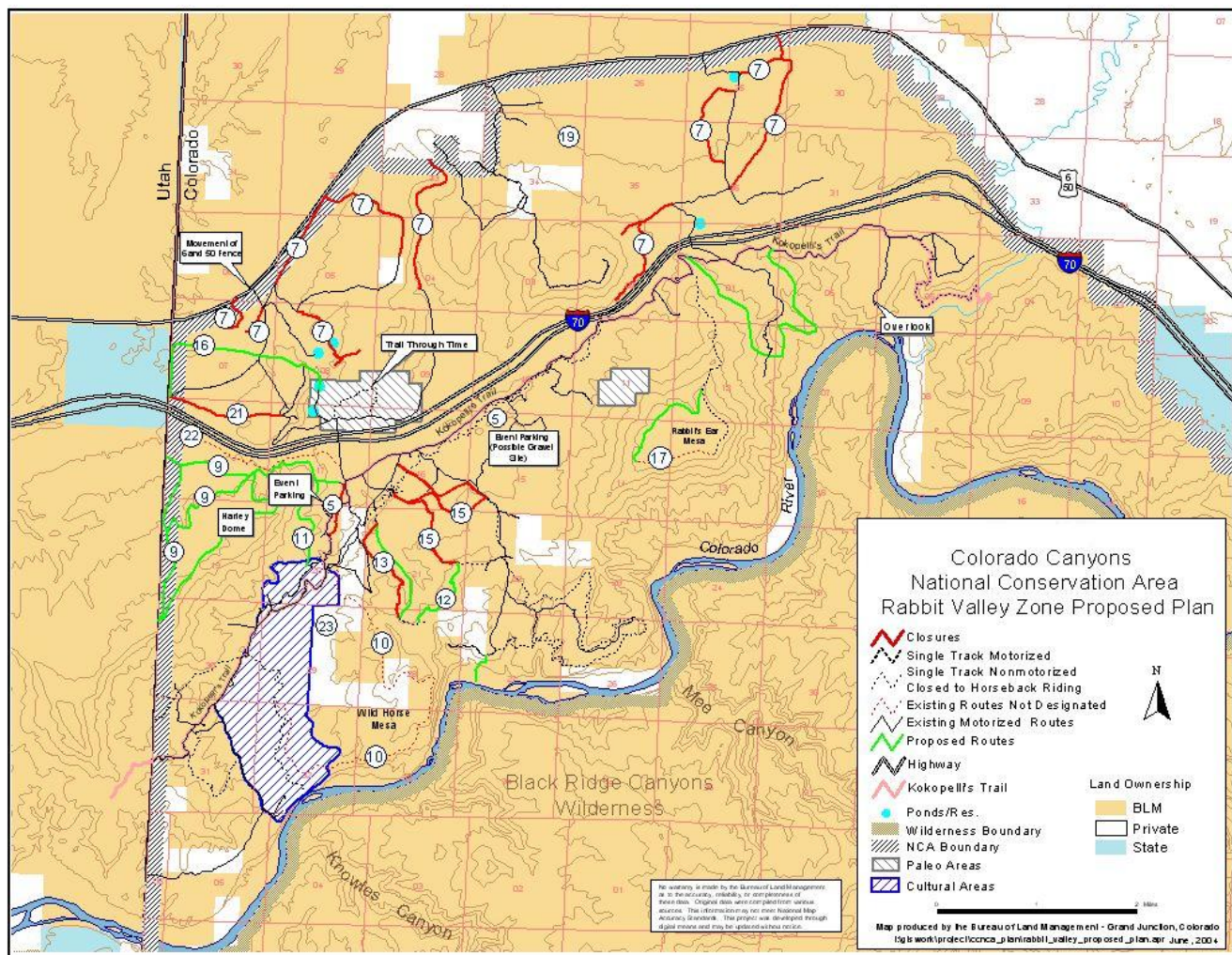


- There will be no camping facilities and no dispersed camping within the Mack Ridge Zone. Restrooms will be provided at high-use parking areas.
- Tour companies can not have more than a total of 15 riders (counting clients and guides) on the Mack Ridge trail system at any one time.
- Commercial equestrian guide permits will not be issued for the Mack Ridge area.
- When possible, large events in January and February will be avoided to reduce stress to livestock (calving season), and competitive events will be limited to hiking and running events.
- Full-time commercial mountain bike permits will be limited to 4 at any one time. Equestrian events will be limited to weekdays. Events with more than 50 participants will be limited to one event per month, plus two additional (14 maximum per year) but no more than two in any one month.
- **(I)** Trailhead signs will be provided reflecting information regarding challenge level and trail length. The trailhead sign at Horsethief Bench will recommend directional travel for mountain bikes (clockwise) and equestrians (counter-clockwise). If warranted directional travel will be implemented throughout the Mack Ridge trail loop system.

Rabbit Valley Planning Zone (Figure 2-4)

- All motorized and mechanized use will be limited to designated roads and trails.
- Fire pans or fuel stoves will be required and woodcutting will be prohibited.
- The BLM Grand Junction Field Office will coordinate with BLM Moab (Utah) in developing and maintaining management consistency along the common state boundary shared by Rabbit Valley and Utah Rims.
- **(I)** The Trail Through Time, McDonald Creek Trail, and the Rabbit's Ear Trail are all designated for hiking only.
- **(I)** Wild Horse Mesa will be designated as no motorized or mechanized use (#10), and if the Joufflas Property were to be acquired, existing routes on Wild Horse Mesa will be designated as hiking and equestrian use only (#10).
- **(I)** The trail running parallel to and south of I-70 will also be designated for hiking and equestrian use (#22).

Figure 2-4
Rabbit Valley Planning Zone



- **(I)** A single-track trail system will be developed in the Harley Dome vicinity to provide connectivity from eastern Rabbit Valley to the western Utah trail system (#9).
- **(I)** Trail No. 2 will be relocated off the valley floor to the escarpment west of the main entrance (#11).
- **(I)** Trail No. 4 will be connected to Trail No. 3 along the upper escarpment and Trail No. 3 will be relocated to the opposite side of the drainage (#12 and 13).
- **(I)** Dead-end routes protruding south from the frontage road east of the main entrance will be closed if they have no destination and provide no benefit (#14).
- **(I)** Trail Nos. 4 and 5 will be relocated to the valley floor and the dry wash running east-west in the same area (#15).
- **(I)** A single-track, multiple use route (#16) will be designated that begins west of the Trail Through Time at the stock pond and continues north and west across the rim, dropping into the wash and continuing to the state line.
- **(I)** The end of the Rabbit's Ear Trail will be extended to create a designated loop trail on top of the mesa (#17).
- **(I)** If feasible, a looped trail will be provided for motorized use to approach the river, however, a ¼-mile river buffer will be maintained and vehicle access along the shore vicinity will be prevented.
- **(I)** Camping in the Rabbit Valley Zone will be limited to no more than seven consecutive nights, and portable toilets are mandatory for overnight, dispersed use.
- **(I)** If the Joufflas property south of I-70 were to be acquired, a formal campground will be constructed on that property.
- **(I)** Dispersed camping sites will be designated if monitoring indicates unacceptable impacts.
- **(I)** A large area for a recreational park and events (# 5) will be developed and designated. Developing and designating a smaller event site at a location to be determined will also be considered.
- **(I)** A site plan will be developed, considering off-loading requirements for both horses and OHVs, for the vicinity of the Rabbit Valley primary entrance south of I-70 (exit 2).
- **(I)** Surfaces at parking areas, trailheads, and group campsites will be hardened by means other than paving.

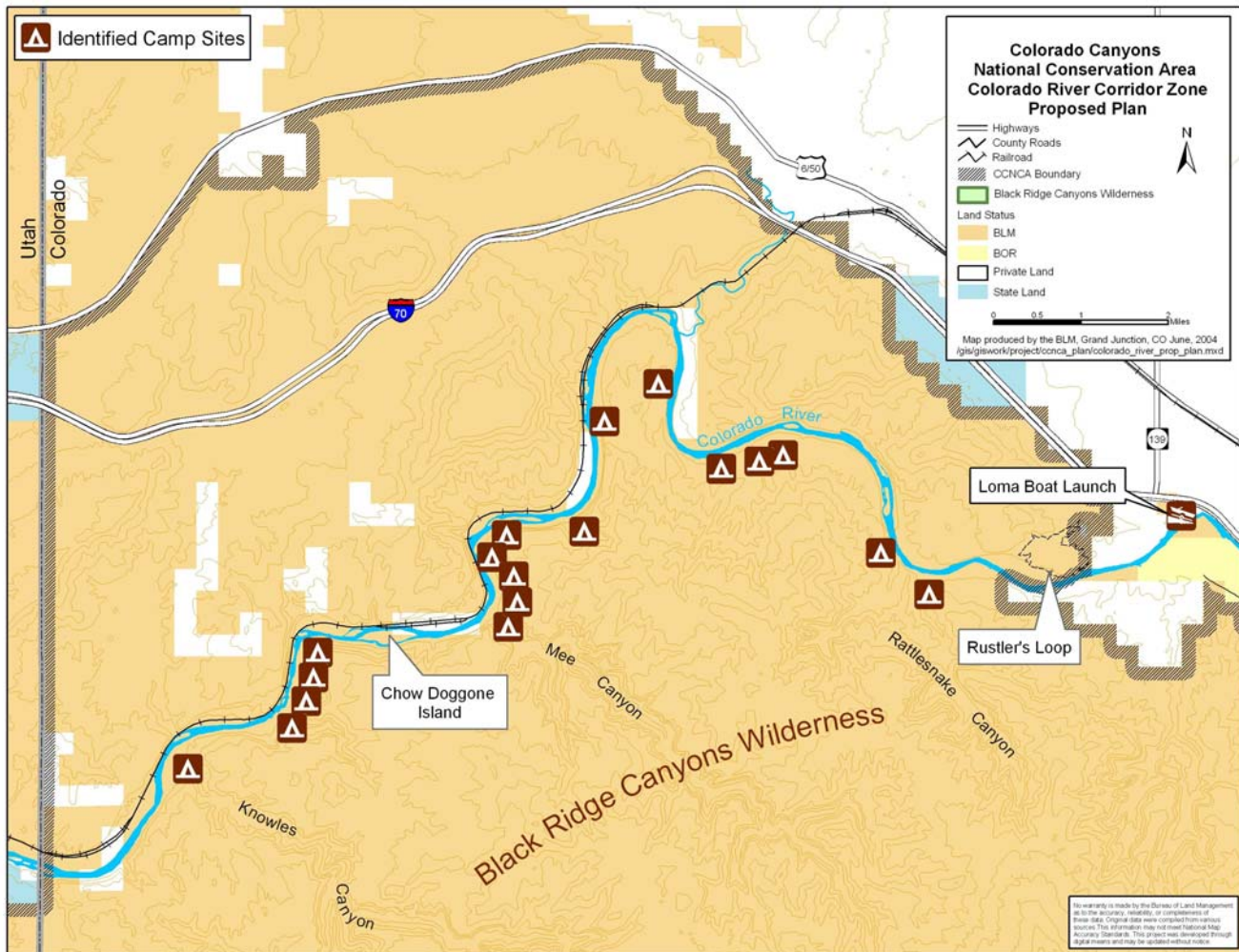
River Corridor Zone (Figure 2-5)

- **(PD)** No camping will be allowed on Doggone Island.
- All fires in this planning zone must be contained in a fire pan, whether visitor access is via the river or land, or the visit is a single day or multiple days.
- Group size will be limited to 25 individuals within the first two miles south of the Colorado River.
- The current voluntary campsite reservation system at Loma Boat Launch will be continued, with selected campsites identified on a map (Figure 2-5) but not at the sites themselves.
- Fire pans or propane heaters will be required year-round for overnight use and will include day users from November 1 through April 30.
- Portable toilets will be required for all river users year-round, including users accessing the River Corridor from land.
- Activity, including camping and trail construction, will be restricted within one-half mile of known bald eagle nesting sites along the Colorado River corridor from November 15 through July 30. If necessary this will be extended beyond seasonal to a year-round restriction.
- There will be no cutting of standing vegetation.

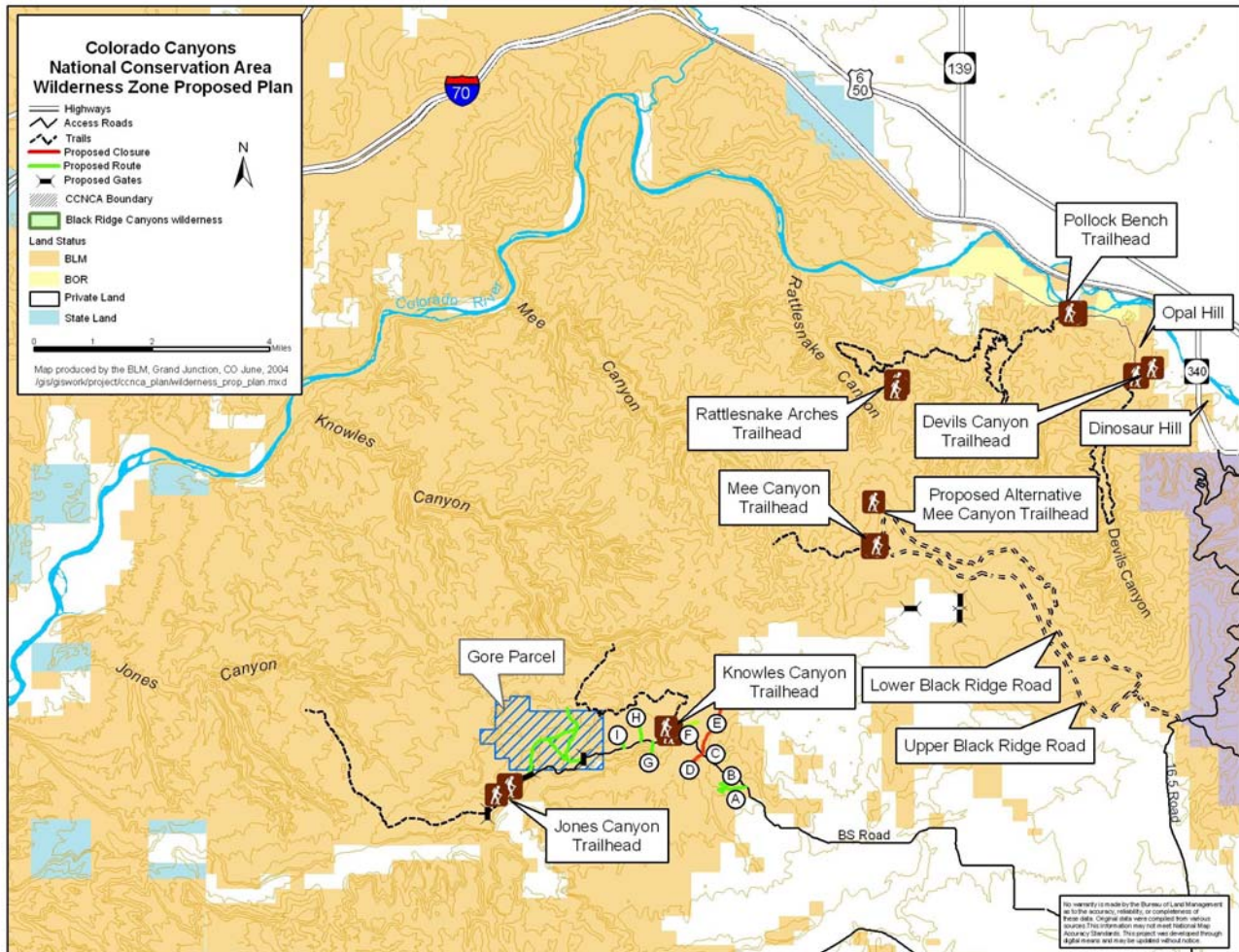
Wilderness Planning Zone (Figure 2-6)

- Motorized and mechanized use is not allowed within BRCW, except for administrative use and search and rescue in accordance with current Memorandums of Understanding (MOU).
- Group size will be limited to 25 individuals within the first two miles south of the Colorado River and to 12 individuals elsewhere in the Wilderness.
- Designated trails within the Wilderness are available for hiking and equestrian use, although some of the trails are not traversable by horse. Portions of the designated trails in the Wilderness Zone fall outside of the Wilderness boundary, they are still limited to hiking and equestrian use. Designated trails include the Rattlesnake Arches Trail; Mee Canyon Trail; Knowles Canyon Trail; Jones Canyon Trail; and the Pollock Bench Trails System, which includes Flume Canyon (partially outside of the Wilderness) and the Devils Canyon Trails System, which includes Kodel's Canyon (partially outside the Wilderness).

**Figure 2-5
River Corridor Zone**



**Figure 2-6
Wilderness Planning Zone**



- The annual opening date of the Upper Black Ridge Access Road will be moved from April 15 to the Saturday of Easter weekend, if weather and road conditions permit, or as soon after Easter as possible based on safety conditions. **(PD)** Closure of the road will occur on August 15.
- The acquired "Gore Parcel" (Figure 2-6) will be closed to motorized/mechanized access, except as needed for administrative use and allotment agreements. The dirt road, west of the gate on BS Road, is closed to motorized/mechanized access except as needed for administrative use and allotment agreements.
- The Dinosaur Hill Trail is outside of the Wilderness boundary and is for hiking only.
- **(I)** A hiking and equestrian trail, heading north from the Jones Canyon Trailhead, will be developed if needed for mitigating impacts.
- **(I)** An alternate Mee Canyon Trailhead will be designated at the intersection of the upper and lower Black Ridge roads.
- **(I)** Hiking and equestrian use will be allowed in the vicinity of Opal Hill.
- **(I)** The BLM will work with the Colorado National Monument (COLM) on identifying trail connections and will inform the public at trailheads that leashes are required for dogs on these trails.
- **(PD)** Motorized vehicle use on the lower Black Ridge road, from August 15 to February 15 only, will be allowed.
- **(I)** Spot graveling will be allowed as needed for maintenance of BS Road.
- **(I)** Spur Roads (Figure 2-6) A, B, C, F, G, H, and I will be designated and contained to prevent lengthening. Spurs D and E will be closed and rehabilitated. An area for horse trailer parking will be developed off the end of Spur C.
- **(I)** The maintenance levels will remain at the current standard for both the lower Black Ridge and Rattlesnake Arches access roads.
- **(I)** A parking area will be created at the sagebrush flats on lower Black Ridge road, just before the intersection with the upper Black Ridge road.
- The Rattlesnake Arches access road and trailhead will be designated as a no camping, no campfires area, anywhere within ¼ mile of the Rattlesnake Arches Loop Trail, including the Arches.

- Historical camping spots, along the upper and lower Black Ridge roads, will be designated; and dispersed camping will be limited to designated sites only.
- The Pollock Canyon, Devils Canyon and Kodel's Canyon trail system, including trailheads, will be designated for day-use only, with fires, camping and nighttime use prohibited, from the CCNCA boundary to the Wilderness boundary.
- Dispersed camping south of the Wilderness boundary will be limited to designated sites, allowed at the ends of spur roads A, B, C, F, G, H, and I along BS Road (Figure 2-6). Additional dispersed camping sites will be designated along BS Road from the Knowles Canyon Trailhead to the Jones Canyon Trailhead.
- **(I)** If future demand or resource impacts dictate the need for a campground outside the southern boundary of the Wilderness, the location will be at the triangle where the upper Black Ridge road and the Mee Canyon access road intersect (if outside of the wilderness boundary) or at the sagebrush flat on the lower Black Ridge road just before the intersection with the upper Black Ridge road.
- Cutting of dead or live standing vegetation for firewood inside the Wilderness boundary is not allowed.
- Campers will be required to have portable toilets and fire pans (or fuel stoves).
- Woodcutting or gathering south of the Wilderness boundary will be limited to areas where chaining has occurred.
- **(I)** Restrooms will be constructed at various designated Wilderness trailheads only as the need arises.
- **(I)** Parking will be allowed and the "turnaround" improved at the end of the Rattlesnake Arches access road, but the area will be contained to prevent encroachment.
- **(I)** Additional parking areas will be created along the Rattlesnake Arches road, designed for turnarounds, and contained to prevent encroachment.
- **(I)** The Knowles Canyon Trailhead will be moved to Road F and expanded to accommodate additional parking.
- **(I)** The Kings View access road (Mesa County I.3 Road) will have no Wilderness access trailheads beyond the Pollock Bench Trailhead.
- **(I)** Parking will be allowed at the flat rock surface area on the south side of BS Road to the southwest of the Knowles Canyon Trailhead, while parking along the Rattlesnake Arches access road will only be allowed at designated locations.
- **(I)** All fences that no longer have a purpose will be removed.

- (I) When dog waste in high-use areas becomes a problem, methods of controlling it will be developed.
- (I) Current posted visitor information regarding road conditions and closures, along with user guidelines for the upper and lower Black Ridge roads, will be maintained. All-terrain vehicle (ATV) use will be directed to the Rabbit Valley Zone as a way to discourage use outside the upper Wilderness vicinity. Educational material will include information regarding private property and the intended uses of various parking facilities in the Devils Canyon/Pollock Canyon Trails System.
- BLM will collaborate with the FAA in developing appropriate flight restrictions over the CCNCA and will request that the CCNCA and its advisory restrictions be included on the National Aeronautical Charts.
- No Special Recreation Permits will be granted for air tours over the CCNCA

Benefits Based Management for Recreation

Managing for beneficial outcomes consisting of experiences and other quality of life benefits requires shifting the focus of recreation management beyond facility developments, management controls, and providing programs and services. These projects and programs, while important, are only the means to important ends, value-added experiences and benefits.

The biggest difference between managing projects and administrative actions for activities and managing for experiences and benefits is that management objectives now target specific experiences and beneficial outcomes for those activities instead of project developments and resource protection. These benefits-based management objectives have been written for the ten sub-zones identified for CCNCA (Figure 2-10). The specific experience and benefit outcomes targeted by management objectives were determined by considering the extensive public input given during the planning process revealing the preferences of both visitors and resident customers, the capacity of each recreation management unit to produce desired recreation opportunities, the availability of other similar opportunities within the immediate market area, and management constraints for the CCNCA.

Opportunities for the attainment of desired experiences and benefits targeted above are produced through a combination of recreation setting character conditions and corresponding management actions.

Because setting character is in turn determined by those actions, it is the next logical step in planning for recreation. Three broad recreation setting categories are mapped for the CCNCA, each affecting the production of opportunities for experiences and benefits: the *physical* character of the land and facilities (Figure 2-7), *social* interactions and contact with others (Figure 2-8), and the *administrative* mix of services and controls provided (Figure 2-9).

Figure 2-7
Physical Classes
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

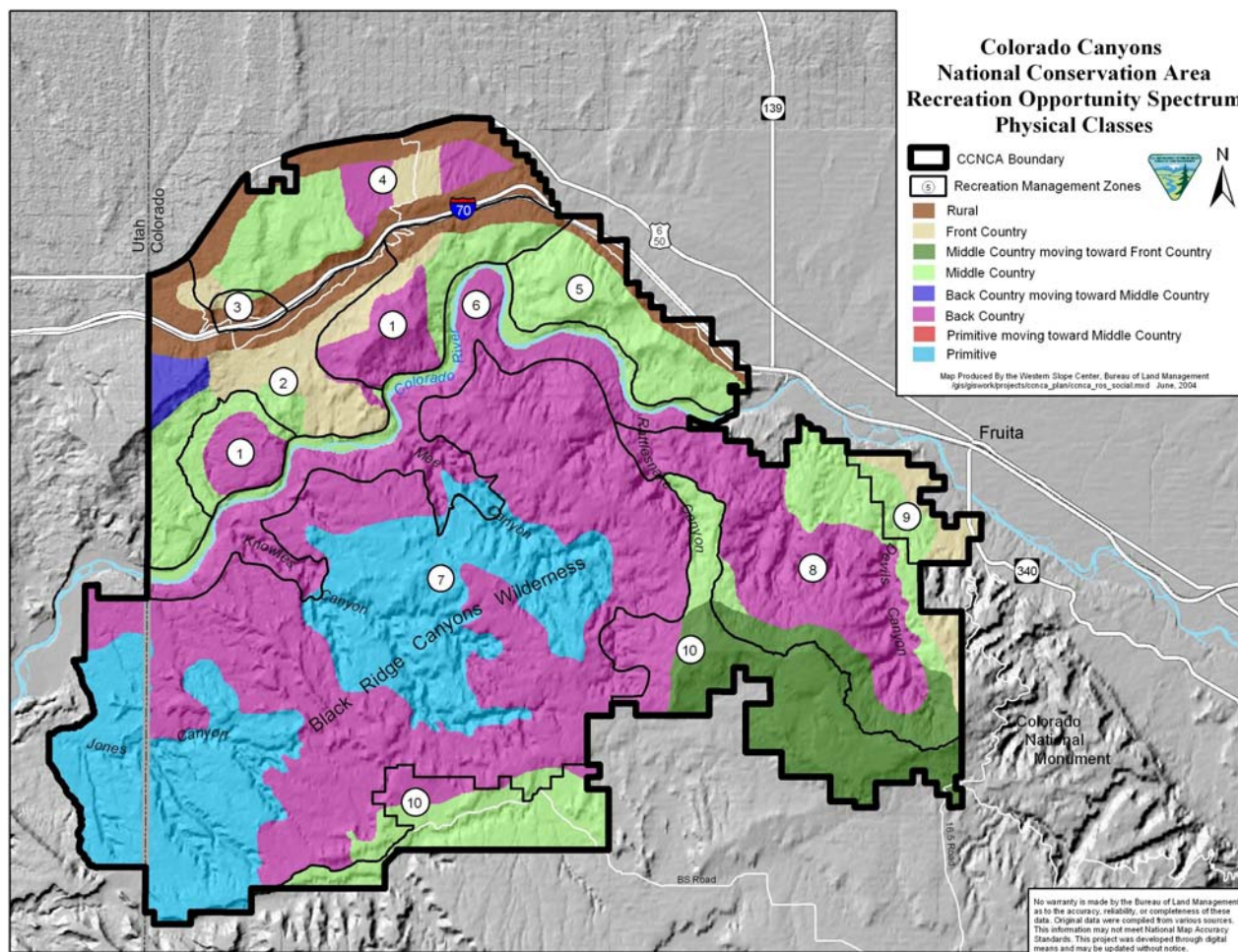


Figure 2-8
Social Classes
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

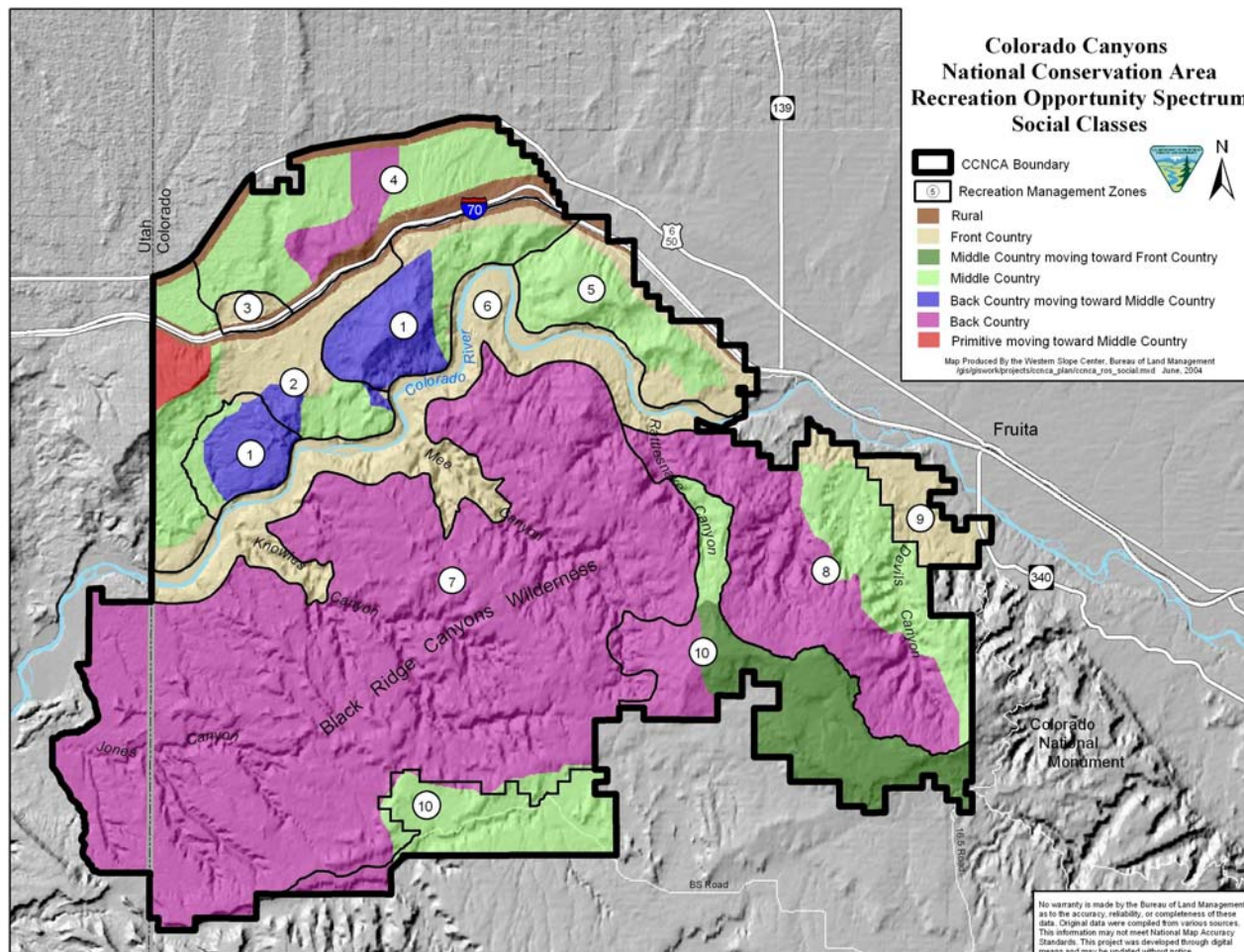
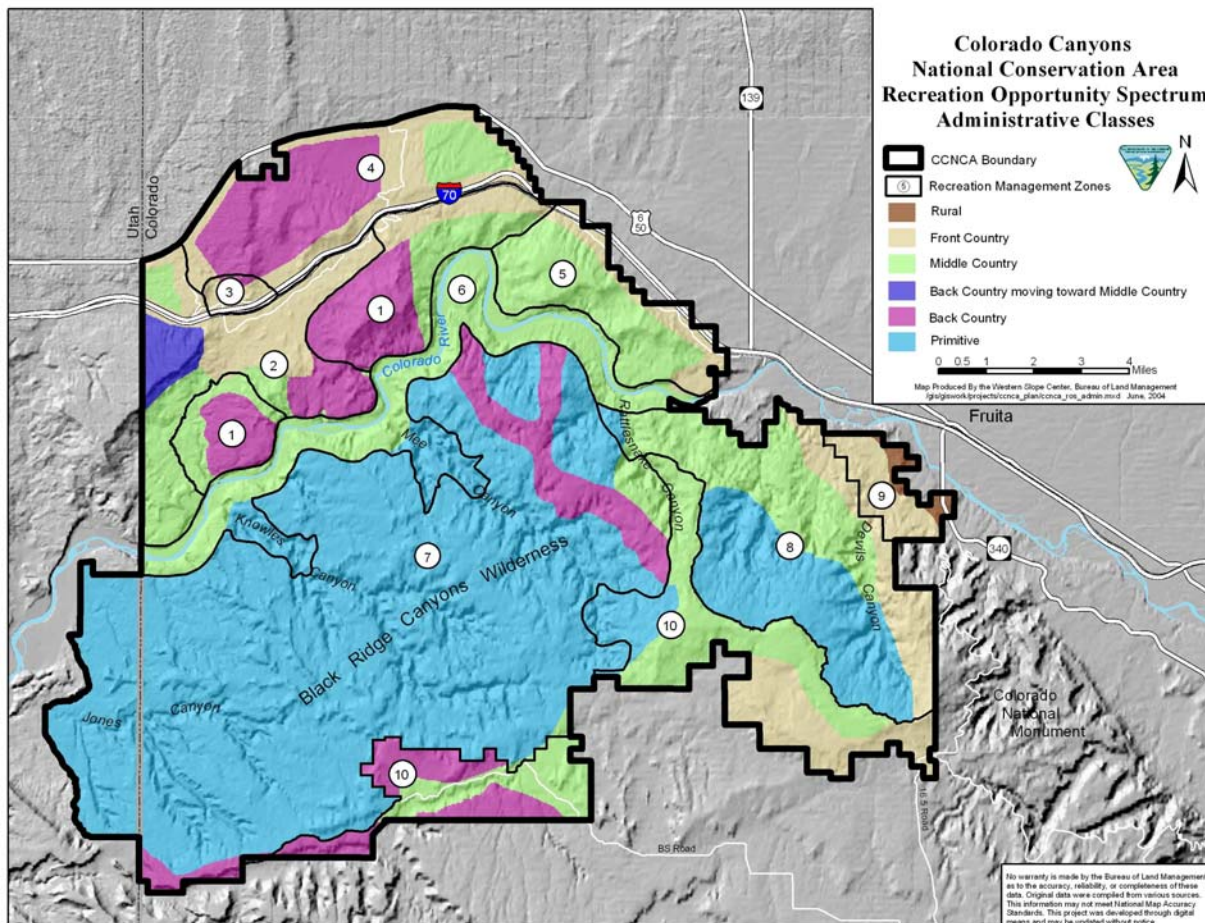


Figure 2-9
Administrative Classes
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum



The character of any recreation setting may be objectively defined along a continuum ranging from primitive to urban in terms of variation of its component physical, social, and administrative attributes. Collectively, these attributes define the character of any recreation setting. Setting character is directly influenced and determined by the management, marketing, and administrative actions of BLM and other recreation-tourism providers. Those actions and the resulting setting character, also affect and actually determine the kinds of recreation opportunities being produced.

There are three broad recreation settings categories and a range of six natural resource classifications are used within the settings. The settings include:

Physical – considers the resources and facilities

Social – looks at visitor use

Administrative – management controls and services

The classifications further define the settings within a range of “urban” to “primitive,” although there are no areas within CCNCA that fall under the urban classification. A brief description of the classification is as follows:

Rural – Includes a substantially modified landscape with visitors dispersed throughout and a prominent level of agency presence and regulation.

Front Country – The landscape is partially modified with visitors prevalent and agency personnel periodically available. Rules and information are clearly posted.

Middle Country – The landscape is natural in appearance with some modifications not highly noticeable. Visitors will encounter other groups utilizing the area, but agency presence is random. Information and signing are present.

Back Country – The landscape is more natural and the limited improvements tend to blend with the environment. Access does not include motorized vehicles and signing and agency presence is scarce.

Primitive – The landscape is relatively undisturbed with few signs of human presence. Very few encounters with other visitors occur. Regulations and information will normally be posted prior to entering this zone and agency presence is very rare.

Recreation Management Zones

The following tables (Figures 2-11 through 2-20) summarize the components of Benefits Based Management for the ten recreation sub-zones in the CCCNA, including management objectives, recreation opportunities, targeted experiences, desired benefits, proposed management and marketing opportunities to enhance achievement of desired outcomes and monitoring actions. Because desired future conditions, visitor benefits and preferred experiences were integrated into the collaboration process, the recommendations reached through community consensus were easily incorporated into management for beneficial outcomes format used in the tables. The tables provide a concise summary that explain the what, where, when and, most importantly, the why of recreation planning in the CCNCA.

Zone 1: Rabbits Ear/Wildhorse Mesa/McDonald Creek (Fig 2-11)

Zone 2: Rabbit Valley Motorized Area (Fig 2-12)

Zone 3: Trail Through Time/ Dinosaur Hill/ Fruita Paleo Area (Fig 2-13)

Zone 4: High North (Fig 2-14)

Zone 5: Mack Ridge (Fig 2-15)

Zone 6: Colorado River Corridor (Fig 2-16)

Zone 7: Black Ridge Canyons West (Fig 2-17)

Zone 8: Black Ridge East (Fig 2-18)

Zone 9: Urban - Wilderness Interface (Fig 2-19)

Zone 10: Rattlesnake Arches - Mee Canyon Access (Fig 2-20)

Figure 2-10
CCNCA Recreation Management Zones

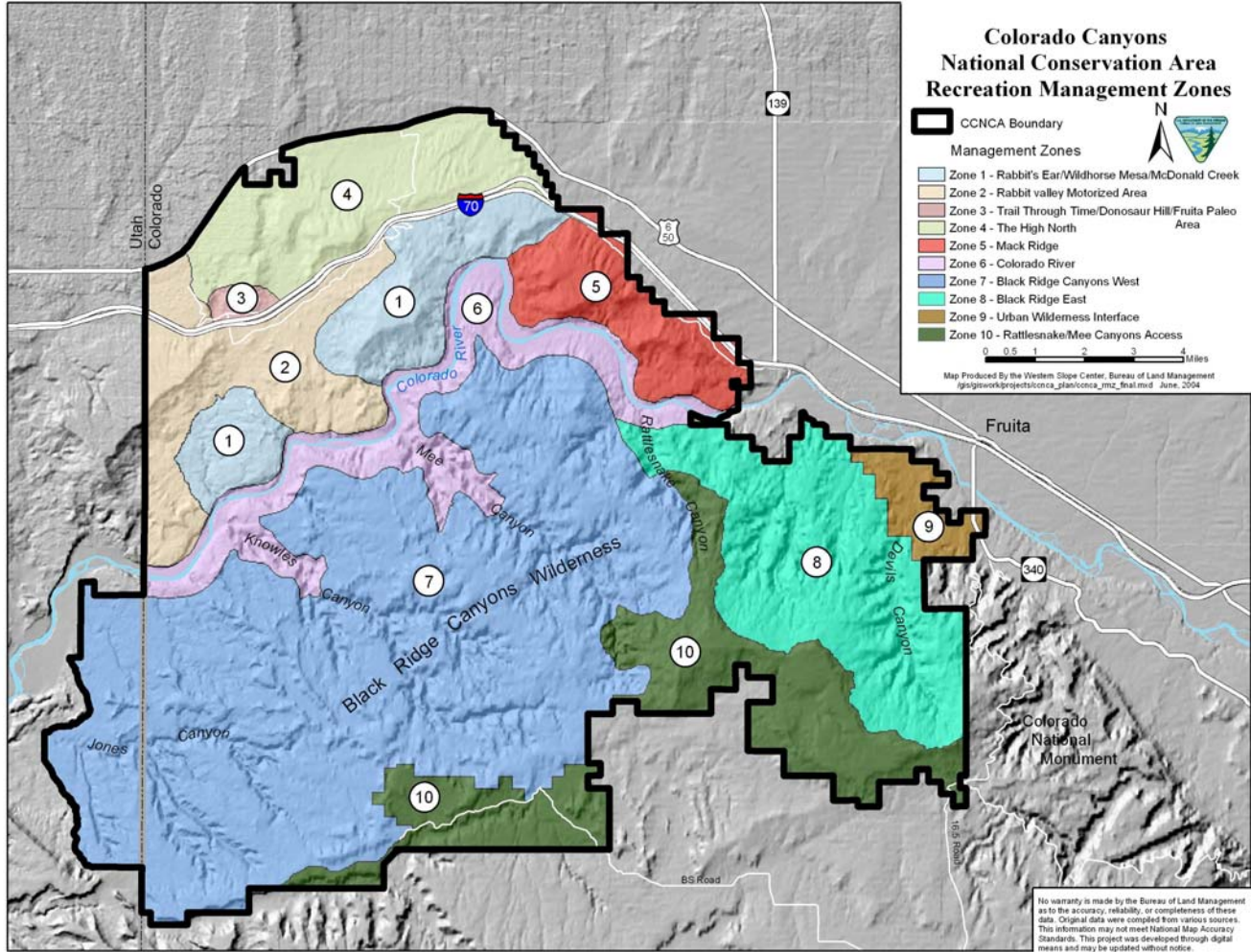


Figure 2-11

RABBITS EAR/WILDHORSE MESA/MCDONALD CREEK (Zone 1)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Back Country Muscle-Powered Exercise for Scenic and Cultural Appreciation</u> recreation, providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u>	<u>Experiences</u>	<u>Benefits</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back Country Hiking• Horseback Riding (McDonald/ Wildhorse only)• Rock Art Viewing (McDonald/ Wildhorse only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoying easy access to diverse back country recreation• Escaping everyday responsibilities for awhile• Savoring canyon, river, and rock-art aesthetics• Feeling good about solitude and being isolated• Enjoying being able to discover and learn about earlier cultures	<u>Personal:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved self reliance• Improved physical fitness• Enhanced sense of freedom in being able to get to this special place• Restored mind from unwanted stress• Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle• Improved outdoor knowledge, skills, and self-confidence• Greater sense of overall wellness• Enhanced cultural resource stewardship ethic <u>Household & Community:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved quality of life• Greater household awareness of and appreciation of our cultural heritage• Improved cultivation of aesthetic appreciation for the area and an outdoor-oriented lifestyle <u>Economic:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased work productivity• Reduced health maintenance costs <u>Environmental:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced looting and vandalism of prehistoric sites• Increased stewardship and protection of natural resources

Figure 2-11 (cont'd)

RABBITS EAR/WILDHORSE MESA/MCDONALD CREEK (Zone 1)		
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily backcountry and middle country with a section of front country due to an improved road for access. In general the area is natural in appearance and non-roaded 	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group size up to 12 Expect 15–29 encounters per day 	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brochures are available for information and opportunities Agency presence which decreases as remoteness increases Mostly non-motorized/non-mechanized other than access road (Kokopelli's Trail)
Management and Marketing Actions		
Management Actions: <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore closed roads that provide no administrative benefit and are not included in range allotment agreements. Modify roads and trails as needed to mitigate impacts. Rehab non-designated trails and trails that are closed unless there is a potential future use Close dead-end spurs that lateral south from the frontage road if no purpose is identified (#14 on map) Contain parking facilities to prevent encroachment Continue the existing route that extends the end of the Rabbit's Ear Trail to create a designated loop trail on top of mesa (#17 on map) Harden surfaces at parking areas, trailheads, and campsites only when needed to prevent resource impacts. 		Marketing Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach Strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public to help maintain resources through partnerships, adoption programs, special events and/or a "friends group." Develop opportunities to maintain resources through inform/educate public about cultural resources Identify partners and develop "Friends" group to assist BLM in outreach and education

Figure 2-11 (cont'd)

RABBITS EAR/WILDHORSE MESA/MCDONALD CREEK (Zone 1)	
Administrative and Monitoring Actions	
Administrative Actions: <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All motorized/mechanized use is limited to existing trails and roads. • Rabbit's Ear Trail is designated for hiking only. • McDonald Creek Trail is designated for hiking only. • Wildhorse Mesa is designated as "no motorized/mechanized use" • Designate & maintain all dirt roads for public access and close non-designated roads. • Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards • Equestrian use limited to designated trails only • Avoid locating trails near known paleo/cultural sites except where specifically intended for interpretation <u>Camping</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to no more than 7 consecutive nights • Portable toilets are mandatory for overnight dispersed use • All open fires must be contained in fire pan (no fires rings) • No wood cutting • Dispersed camping sites not designated unless monitoring shows unacceptable impacts. 	<u>Shooting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting) <u>Hunting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations <u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas • Dogs under voice control elsewhere <u>Permits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2 <u>Visual Resources Management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class II southern portion • Class III northern portion near I-70 corridor Monitoring Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assure objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are being maintained • Monitor implemented actions and evaluate • A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system will be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.

Figure 2-12

RABBIT VALLEY MOTORIZED AREA (Zone 2)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Sustainable scenic, diverse motorized and mechanized play area for the Grand Valley</u> , providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motorcycle• ATV• Mountain bike riding• Camping	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoying frequent exercise• Access to a range of physical challenge• Escaping everyday responsibilities for a while• Savoring canyon-country aesthetics• Enjoying easy access to diverse recreation opportunities.• Developing skills, abilities and self-confidence	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved physical fitness• Better health maintenance• Restored mind from unwanted stress• Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle• Improved outdoor knowledge, skills, and self-confidence• Greater environmental awareness and sensitivity• More well-informed and responsible visitors <p><u>Household & Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved cultivation of aesthetic appreciation for the area and an outdoor-oriented lifestyle <p><u>Economic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased resource stewardship and protection by communities
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Middle and front country</i> with <i>rural</i> character along the north portion of this zone, due the proximity of the I-70 corridor. Mostly natural in appearance, with a number of rustic facilities including trails, restrooms, dispersed campsites and signage.	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group size up to 45• Could have 30-35 encounters per day beyond encounters in staging or camping areas	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brochures are available for information and opportunities• Agency personnel are periodically available• Rules are clearly posted and use may be temporarily restricted due to permitted events or resource concerns due to weather• Area accommodates multiple-use including OHV

Figure 2-12 (cont'd)

RABBIT VALLEY MOTORIZED AREA (Zone 2)	
Management and Marketing Actions	
<p>Management Actions: <u>Roads and Trails</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore closed roads that have no administrative benefit and are not included in range allotment agreements • Modify roads and trail as needed to mitigate impacts • Rehab non-designated trails and trails that are closed unless there is a potential future use • Develop multiple-use single-track trails in the vicinity of Harley Dome to provide connectivity to the Utah trail system (#9 on Map) • Relocate Trail #2 off the valley floor to the escarpment west of the main entrance (#11 on map) • Connect Trail #4 to Trail #3 along the upper escarpment (#12 on map) • Relocate Trail #3 to the opposite side of the drainage and connect to Trail #4 (#13 on map) • Relocate Trail #4 and Trail #5 to on the valley floor to the dry wash that runs east-west in the same area (#15 on map) • Designate multiple-use single track trail from stock pond west of Trail through Time, head west to State line and south to dirt road (#16 on map). • Close dead-end spurs that lateral south from the frontage road if no purpose is identified (#14 on map) • Close and rehab route north of I-70 near Utah border (#21 on map) • Contain parking facilities to prevent encroachment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harden surfaces at parking areas, trailheads, and campsites only when needed to prevent resource impacts. <p><u>Camping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct formal campground if BLM successfully acquires the Joufflas in-holding <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a large area for recreational parking and events (#5 on map) • Consider developing & designating a 2nd group-use site at the disturbed alcove location • Develop and implement a site plan for the Rabbit Valley entrance vicinity south of I-70 <p>Marketing Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach • Strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public to help maintain resources through partnerships, adoption programs, special events and/or a "friends group." • Identify partners and develop "Friends" group to assist BLM in outreach and education

Figure 2-12 (cont'd)

RABBIT VALLEY MOTORIZED AREA (Zone 2)	
Administrative and Monitoring Actions	
Administrative Actions: <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All motorized/mechanized use is limited to existing trails and roads. Designate trail south of and running parallel to I-70 as non-motorized (#22 on map) Avoid locating trails near known paleo/cultural sites except where specifically intended for interpretation Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards Designate and maintain all dirt roads for public access & close non-designated roads. Equestrian use limited to designated trails only <u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas Dogs under voice control elsewhere Coordinate with Moab BLM for continuity <u>Permits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2 	<u>Camping</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited to no more than 7 consecutive nights Portable toilets are mandatory for overnight dispersed use All open fires must be contained in fire pan (no fires rings) No wood cutting Dispersed camping sites not designated unless monitoring shows unacceptable impacts. <u>Shooting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting) <u>Hunting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations <u>Visual Resources Management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class III - northern portion near I-70 corridor Not Rated - most of southern portion Monitoring Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assure objectives are being met and prescribed settings are being maintained Monitor implemented actions and evaluate A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system will be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.

Figure 2-13

TRAIL THROUGH TIME/DINOSAUR HILL/FRUITA PALEO AREA (Zone 3)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Roadside Access to Paleontological Resource Appreciation and Education</u> recreation, providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Viewing Dinosaur FossilsViewing Interpretive Exhibits	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Enjoying being able to view fossil remains in-placeEnjoying hands-on environmental learning	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Greater overall awareness and understanding of and sensitivity to paleontologyImproved knowledge of area paleontology and geology <p><u>Household & Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Heightened sense of community pride and satisfactionGreater household awareness of and appreciation of our natural heritageGreater academic advancement of children in science studies <p><u>Economic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Greater recognition of Fruita as a desired destination for locals and non-localsMaintenance of gateway community’s distinctive recreation-tourism market niche or characterIncreased local tourism revenue <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased stewardship and promotion of fossil resourcesReduced looting and vandalism of prehistoric sites
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">These areas fall within <i>front country</i> and <i>rural</i> settings located directly off of paved roads or accessed off an improved road. Mostly natural setting, with some improvements designed to enhance the visitor’s experience.	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">FPA: May encounter groups of 7-12 people; 15-29 encounters with other groups/individualsTTT and Dinosaur Hill: Group size 13-25; Could encounter up to 30+ groups/individuals per day	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Abundant information/interpretationDogs must be on leash in these locationsAccessible with normal highway vehicle

Figure 2-13 (cont'd)

TRAIL THROUGH TIME/DINOSAUR HILL/FRUITA PALEO AREA (Zone 3)	
Management and Marketing Actions	
Management Actions: <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore closed roads that have no administrative benefit and are not included in range allotment agreements. Modify roads and trails as needed to mitigate impacts. Rehab non-designated trails and trails that are closed unless there is a potential future use Contain parking facilities to prevent encroachment Harden surfaces at parking areas, trailheads, and campsites only when needed to prevent resource impacts. 	Marketing Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop comprehensive interpretive plan Strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public to help maintain resources through partnerships, adoption programs, special events and/or a "friends group." Work with the City of Fruita regarding tourism/marketing aspects related to paleo resources Work with Museum of Western Colorado to capitalize on scientific paleo-oriented opportunities
Administrative and Monitoring Actions	
Administrative Actions: <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All motorized/mechanized use is limited to existing trails and roads. Designate and maintain all dirt roads for public access and close non-designated roads. Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards Equestrian use limited to designated trails only The Trail Through Time and Dinosaur Hill Trails are designated for hiking only <u>Camping</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited to no more than 7 consecutive nights Portable toilets are mandatory for overnight dispersed use All open fires must be contained in fire pan (no fires rings) No wood cutting Dispersed camping sites not designated unless monitoring shows unacceptable impacts. Dinosaur Hill is day-use only <u>Shooting</u>: No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting) 	<u>Hunting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations <u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas Dogs under voice control elsewhere <u>Permits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2 <u>Visual Resources Management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class II - Fruita Paleo Area Class III - Trail Through Time Not Rated - Dinosaur Hill Monitoring Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assure objectives are being met and prescribed settings are being maintained Monitor implemented actions and evaluate A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system will be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.

Figure 2-14

THE HIGH NORTH (Zone 4)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Little Watchable Wildlife Oasis</u> recreation, providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=complete/total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wildlife Watching	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Savoring the sight and sound of wildlife and the smell of a natural settingQuickly accessing natural resource environmentsFeeling good about solitude and being isolatedEnjoying teaching others about the wildlife of the intermountain arid West	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved opportunity to view wildlife close-upRenewed human spiritIncreased familiarity with/learning about uncommon speciesIncreased assurance that special species are being sustainedGreater sensitivity to/awareness of the natural ecosystem <p><u>Household & Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved cultivation of aesthetic appreciation for the area and an outdoor-oriented lifestyleEnlarged sense of community dependency on improved stewardship of public wildlife resources <p><u>Economic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased desirability as a place to live or retirePreserving habitat for special status species that could otherwise become costly to restore <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased stewardship and protection of wildlife
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">From <i>back country</i> to <i>rural</i> Surrounded by major paved roads, but w/ limited access. Several dirt roads throughout the area, but still natural in appearance w/ few improvements.	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Group size 4-6; visitors may have 7-15 encounters per day. Much of this area within a <i>rural</i> physical setting, trails enthusiasts prefer other locations for their endeavors.	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This area can be accessed via normal 2-wheel drive vehicleAgency presence will be lowOn site facilities and signage will be very low key

Figure 2-14 (cont'd)

THE HIGH NORTH (Zone 4)	
Management and Marketing Actions	
Management Actions: <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore closed roads that have no administrative benefit and are not included in range allotment agreements. • Modify roads and trails as needed to mitigate impacts. • Rehab non-designated trails and trails that are closed unless there is a potential future use • Contain parking facilities to prevent encroachment • Harden surfaces at parking areas, trailheads, and campsites only when needed to prevent resource impacts. • Close excess dirt roads (#7 on map) 	Marketing Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach • Strive to involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested public to help maintain resources through partnerships, adoption programs, special events and/or a "friends group." • Work with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services (F&WS), CDOW & appropriate interest groups to explore opportunities to enhance zone objectives • Identify partners and develop "Friends" group to assist BLM in outreach and education
Administrative and Monitoring Actions	
Administrative Actions: <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All motorized/mechanized use is limited to existing trails and roads. • Designate and maintain all dirt roads for public access and close non-designated roads. • Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards • Equestrian use limited to designated trails only • Avoid locating trails near known paleo/cultural sites except where specifically intended for interpretation <u>Camping</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to no more than 7 consecutive nights • Portable toilets are mandatory for overnight dispersed use • All open fires must be contained in fire pan (no fires rings) • No wood cutting • Dispersed camping sites not designated unless monitoring shows unacceptable impacts. <u>Shooting:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting) 	<u>Hunting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations <u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas • Dogs under voice control elsewhere <u>Permits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2 <u>Visual Resources Management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class III - along southern boundary adjacent to I-70 corridor • Not Rated – the remaining portion of this zone Monitoring Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assure objectives are being met and settings are being maintained • Monitor implemented actions and evaluate A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system will be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.

Figure 2-15

MACK RIDGE (Zone 5)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>World Class Single – Track Day-Use Mountain Biking</u> recreation, providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4= total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Single-track day-use mountain biking	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Enjoying frequent exerciseEnjoying strenuous exerciseHaving easier access to a wide range of challengesTesting your enduranceDeveloping skills, abilities, and self-confidenceSavoring canyon-country aesthetics	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved physical fitnessBetter health maintenanceRestored mind from unwanted stressGreater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyleGreater freedom from urban livingImproved outdoor knowledge, skills, and self-confidenceGreater aesthetic appreciation <p><u>Household & Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction <p><u>Economic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Greater recognition of Fruita as a desired destination for local and non-locals alikeMaintenance of gateway community’s distinctive recreation-tourism market niche or characterIncreased local tourism revenueReduced health maintenance costsIncreased local job opportunities <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased stewardship and protection of Mack Ridge
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rural along the I-70 corridor, w/ improved dirt road and parking facilities; middle country on river side. Natural in appearance other than the trails network.	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Group size up to 12Expect 15–29 encounters per day after leaving parking facilities	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Brochures/maps are available for informationRegularly monitored by agency representativesRules clearly postedMostly non-motorized and designated as day-use

Figure 2-15 (cont'd)

MACK RIDGE (Zone 5)	
Management and Marketing Actions	
Management Actions: <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct trail segment "C" to replace end of dirt road Close and restore all non-designated trails Modify trails as needed to mitigate impacts Close and restore road providing same access as trail "G" Close and restore the end of the road on Steve's Loop Close and restore dead-end segment heading south from Hawkeye Road Close and restore segment adjacent to dirt road connecting county road to west end of trail Close and rehab all non-designated roads not used for admin purposes Modify roads as needed to mitigate impacts Contain parking facilities to prevent encroachment Construct ½ mi. new route to designate Route A as open to travel Construct segment E to connect segment A and Mary's Loop Construct J between southernmost point of Troy Built and end of Mack Ridge single track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct trail F to connect Mack Ridge Trail to Mack Ridge trailhead Consider trail D to connect trail F to Mary's Loop from frontage road and construct only if determined necessary Construct trail G from Hawkeye frontage road to gated dirt road Provide restrooms at high-use parking areas <u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gate or erect motorized barriers at 9 locations (Figure 2-1) Marketing Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach Provide trailhead signs with information regarding challenge level and trail length Trailhead sign at Horsethief Bench will recommend clockwise travel for mtn. bikes and counterclockwise travel for equestrian use Work with Fruita on recreation-tourism market niche opportunities

MACK RIDGE (Zone 5)	
Administrative and Monitoring Actions	
<p>Administrative Actions:</p> <p><u>Roads and Trails</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated uses for existing trails • All motorized/mechanized use limited to specifically designated trails & roads only • Limit equestrian use to designated trails only • Restrict motorized use to road portion of Lion's Loop, to and including access out to Overlook Point, county roads, and designated parking areas <p><u>Camping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No camping within the Mack Ridge Zone <p><u>Shooting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting) <p><u>Hunting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations 	<p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate Mack Ridge area day-use only • Require on-site horse feed to be certified weed-free • All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas • Dogs under voice control elsewhere <p><u>Permits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2 <p><u>Visual Resources Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class II – along river corridor • Class III - northeast side of ridge (along frontage road) • Not Rated – areas in between the river and highway influences <p>Monitoring Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assure objectives are being met and prescribed settings are being maintained • Monitor implemented actions and evaluate • A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system will be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.

Figure 2-16

COLORADO RIVER CORRIDOR (Zone 6)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Overnight flat-water boating for social group and family affiliation in a naturally-appearing red-walled river canyon</u> , providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4= total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overnight rafting, canoeing and kayaking• Associated camping and wilderness hiking	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Savoring canyon-country aesthetics• Enjoying easy access to diverse back country recreation• Enjoying the closeness of family and friends• Enjoying exploration• Escaping everyday responsibilities for a while• Enjoying mental and physical rest	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restored mind from unwanted stress• Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle• Greater environmental awareness and sensitivity• Renewed human spirit• Greater outdoor knowledge, skills, and self-confidence• Greater aesthetic appreciation• More well-informed and responsible visitors <p><u>Household & Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction• Maintained and enhanced group cohesion and family bonding• Improved functioning of individuals in family and community <p><u>Economic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintenance of gateway community’s distinctive recreation-tourism market niche or character• Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability• Increased local tourism revenue• Increased work productivity <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased stewardship and protection of River Corridor

Figure 2-16 (cont'd)

COLORADO RIVER CORRIDOR (Zone 6)		
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North of the river is <i>middle country</i> and south of the river is <i>back country</i>. The corridor is natural in appearance, although there is a railroad track within the corridor on the north side of the river. The corridor is presently unimproved w/ potential for low key improvements. 	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group size up to 25 Expect 15–29 encounters per day and eventually in the 30+ range during the peak use times There is some evidence of camping along the banks 	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brochures are available and information is posted at the launch site. Nothing is available beyond the launch site Agency presence and enforcement is randomly present Motorized use allowed in concurrence with State regulations
Management and Marketing Actions		
Marketing Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach Provide education/information through sources other than on-site posting Explore development of volunteer program with gateway communities/river users to assist with monitoring needs 		
Administrative and Monitoring Actions		
Administrative Actions:		
<u>Camping</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camping on Chow Doggone Island Portable toilets are mandatory for overnight dispersed use All open fires must be contained in fire pan (no fires rings) No wood cutting Dispersed camping sites not designated unless monitoring shows unacceptable impacts Continue voluntary campsite reservation system at launch site as long as practical 	<u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas Dogs under voice control elsewhere Travel mgmt. signing must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards Group size is limited to 25 people 	<u>Visual Resources Management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class I – south of the river Class II — north of the river
<u>Shooting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting) 	Monitoring Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assure objectives are being met and settings are being maintained Monitor implemented actions and evaluate A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system will be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA. 	
<u>Hunting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations 		
<u>Permits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2 		

Figure 2-17

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST (Zone 7)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Extreme Wilderness Adventure through Rugged, Deeply-Carved Canyons, Pinnacles, Cliffs, and Slick Rock Creating Limited Access Between Canyons</u> , providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4= total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hiking• Backpacking• Hunting• Photography.	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Savoring canyon-country aesthetics• Enjoying strenuous exercise• Testing your endurance• Developing skills, abilities, and self-confidence• Feeling good about solitude and being isolated• Enjoying primitive and unconfined outdoor recreation environments• Enjoying exploration	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved physical fitness• Better health maintenance• Improved outdoor knowledge, skills, and self-confidence• Greater overall sense of wellness• Renewed human spirit• Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance• Closer relationship with the natural world <p><u>Household & Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased stewardship and protection of Wilderness resources• Greater retention of distinctive natural landscape features
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The heart of the area is <i>primitive</i> with a relatively undisturbed landscape• Most of the outer edge is <i>back country</i> with a natural appearing landscape and some modifications not readily noticeable	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group size up to 12• Expect 0–6 encounters per day within the <i>primitive</i> setting and as many as 15 encounters within the <i>back country</i> setting	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maps of the Wilderness are available and information is posted outside of the Wilderness at the trailheads, but very little direction is available inside the boundary other than approach trails to allow access into the various canyons.• Agency presence within this zone is infrequent.

BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WEST (Zone 7)

Management and Marketing Actions

Management Actions:

Roads and Trails

- Modify trails as needed to mitigate resource impacts
- Construct a trail heading north from the Jones Canyon Trailhead if needed to mitigate impacts

Marketing Actions:

- Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach
- Collaborate with gateway communities, local agencies and interest groups to promote education, appreciation and land stewardship

Administrative and Monitoring Actions

Administrative Actions:

Roads and Trails

- Motorized/mechanized use prohibited
- Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards

Camping

- Limited to no more than 14 consecutive nights
- No cutting of dead/live standing vegetation for firewood

Shooting

- No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting)

Hunting

- Hunting allowed in conformance with DOW regulations

Other

- Group size is limited to 12 people
- Collaborate with FAA to develop advisory flight restrictions
- All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas
- Dogs under voice control elsewhere

Permits

- See Special Recreation Permit Program in Chapter 2

Visual Resources Management

- Class I

Monitoring Actions:

- Assure objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are being maintained
- Monitor implemented actions and evaluate A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system will be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.

Figure 2-18

BLACK RIDGE EAST (Zone 8)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Easy Urban Access to Back Country Settings for Both Day and Overnight Non-Mechanized Wilderness Recreation</u> , providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4= total realization)	
	Outcomes	
<u>Primary Activities</u>	<u>Experiences</u>	<u>Benefits</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hiking• Horseback Riding• Running• Backpacking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Escaping everyday responsibilities for awhile• Enjoying frequent exercise• Enjoying strenuous exercise• Developing skills, abilities, and self-confidence• Savoring canyon-country aesthetics• Releasing or reducing some built-up mental tensions• Discovering joy in interacting with others in outdoor settings	<u>Personal:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater freedom from urban living• Renewed human spirit• Improved physical fitness• Better health maintenance• Restored mind from unwanted stress• Improved outdoor knowledge, skills, and self-confidence• Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle• Improved understanding of how involvement with others in natural resource settings builds character <u>Household & Community:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction• Improved cultivation of aesthetic appreciation for the area and an outdoor-oriented lifestyle• Reduced numbers of at-risk youth• Reduced juvenile delinquency• Improved community integration <u>Economic:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased desirability as a place to live/retire• Reduced health maintenance costs• Increased property values <u>Environmental:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased stewardship and protection of Wilderness Resources

Figure 2-18 (cont'd)

BLACK RIDGE EAST (Zone 8)		
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Backcountry</i> with <i>middle country</i> around the perimeter due to roads outside of the zone boundary. The area is natural in appearance and basically undisturbed other than a few subtle modifications in the form of low key trails.	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group size up to 12• Expect 3–6 encounters per day within the interior and as many as 15 encounters around the perimeter where the designated trails are located	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brochures are available and information is posted outside of the Wilderness at the trailheads, but very little direction is available inside the boundary Agency presence within this zone is infrequent.• No mechanized use
Management and Marketing Actions		
Management Actions: <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modify trails as needed to mitigate resource impacts• Remove existing fences that no longer serve a purpose	Marketing Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education, and public outreach• Collaborate with gateway communities, local agencies and interest groups to promote, appreciation and land stewardship	
Administrative and Monitoring Actions		
Administrative Actions: <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motorized/mechanized use prohibited• No wilderness access routes will be developed from the Kings View Road beyond the Pollock Bench Trailhead• Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards <u>Camping</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited to no more than 14 consecutive nights• No cutting of dead/live standing vegetation for firewood <u>Shooting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting) <u>Hunting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hunting allowed in conformance with DOW regulations <u>Permits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2	<u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group size is limited to 12 people• Work with Colorado National Monument to promote seamless management and trail connectivity• Collaborate with FAA to develop advisory flight restrictions• All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas• Dogs under voice control elsewhere <u>Visual Resources Management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class I• Class II – small section along eastern boundary Monitoring Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assure objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are being maintained• Monitor implemented actions and evaluate A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system will be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management.	

Figure 2-19

URBAN - WILDERNESS INTERFACE (Zone 9)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in <u>Day-Use Foot and Horse-Only Recreation in an Urban Back-Yard Setting Abutting the Wilderness</u> , providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hiking• Horseback Riding• Dog Walking• Running	<u>Experiences</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoying having access to close-to-home outdoor amenities• Escaping everyday responsibilities for awhile• Enjoying frequent exercise• Seeing visitors get excited about the area• Releasing or reducing some built-up mental tensions• Enjoying the closeness of family and friends	<u>Benefits</u> <p><u>Personal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved understanding of rural-urban interface• Maintained ability to take a quick canyon-country excursion• Improved physical fitness• Better health maintenance• Restored mind from unwanted stress• Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle• Increased personal enrichment from helping others develop greater awareness, learning, and appreciation the area• Greater personal enrichment through involvement with others <p><u>Household & Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction• Improved cultivation of aesthetic appreciation for the area and an outdoor-oriented lifestyle• Enlarged sense of community dependency on public lands <p><u>Economic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased desirability as a place to live or retire• Positive contributions to local economic stability• Reduced health maintenance costs• Increased property values <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased stewardship and protection of the urban-Wilderness interface• Greater community ownership and stewardship of recreation and natural resources• Improved respect for privately owned lands

Figure 2-19 (cont'd)

URBAN - WILDERNESS INTERFACE (Zone 9)		
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Front country</i> along the urban interface to the east, turning to <i>middle country</i> to the west as this zone approaches the Wilderness boundary • The landscape is modified with an access road, trailhead/parking facilities and a number of trails, but naturalness is still not overpowered 	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group size up to 25 people • Could encounter up to 30 individuals/groups per day 	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochures/maps are available for information and opportunities • Monitored by agency representatives periodically • Rules clearly posted • Easy access with 2-wheel drive, although trails are non-motorized/non-mechanized
Management and Marketing Actions		
Management Actions: <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify trails as needed to mitigate resource impacts • Construct restrooms at trailheads only when needed • Contain parking facilities to prevent encroachment • Provide hiking and equestrian opportunities in the Opal Hill vicinity <u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove existing fences that no longer serve a purpose • Implement methods to deal with dog waste in high-use areas when the need arises 	Marketing Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the City of Fruita in management of Snooks Bottom, trail connectivity and other gateway community projects. • Work/collaborate closely with the urban interface community in this zone (existing and future expansion). • Work with local schools to foster an appreciation for natural resources • Educational materials will include information regarding private property and designated use for various parking facilities • Work with Colorado National Monument to promote seamless management, consistency and trail connectivity 	

Figure 2-19 (cont'd)

URBAN - WILDERNESS INTERFACE (Zone 9)	
Administrative and Monitoring Actions	
Administrative Actions: <u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized/mechanized use prohibited on the Pollock Bench and Devil's Canyon Trail systems No wilderness access routes will be developed from the Kings View Road beyond the Pollock Bench Trailhead Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards <u>Camping</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited to no more than 14 consecutive nights The Pollock Canyon, Devils Canyon and Kodel's Canyon trail system, including trailheads, will be designated for day-use only, with fires, camping and nighttime use prohibited from the CCNCA boundary to the Wilderness boundary. <u>Shooting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting) <u>Hunting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations 	<u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas Dogs under voice control elsewhere <u>Permits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See <u>Special Recreation Permit Program</u> in Chapter 2 <u>Visual Resources Management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class II Monitoring Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assure objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are being maintained Monitor implemented actions and evaluate Monitor implemented actions and evaluate. A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system will be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management.

Figure 2-20

RATTLESNAKE—MEE CANYONS ACCESS (Zone 10)		
Management Objectives	By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to <u>Hike to a Cluster of Remote Natural Arches and Slick Rock Canyons from a Rugged, Unimproved Road</u> , providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=total realization)	
Outcomes		
<u>Primary Activities</u>	<u>Experiences</u>	<u>Benefits</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Viewing the Arches• Day-Use Hiking• Limited, Designated Camping Near Vehicles Along Hunter Access Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoying exploration of the arches and canyons• Savoring canyon-country aesthetics• Enjoying artistic expression of nature• Releasing or reducing some built-up mental tensions• Feeling good about solitude and being isolated• Enjoying the night on the rim for easier canyon access	<u>Personal:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased capacity for artistic expression• Renewed human spirit• Restored mind from unwanted stress• Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle• Continued freedom of access to this remote yet undeveloped attraction• Greater freedom from urban living• Enhanced sense of place ethic• Greater overall sense of wellness <u>Household & Community:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction• Improved cultivation of aesthetic appreciation for the area and an outdoor-oriented lifestyle• Greater community appreciation of nature art <u>Economic:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintenance of gateway community’s distinctive recreation-tourism market niche or character• Greater recognition of gateway communities as a desired destination for local and non-locals alike• Increased local tourism revenue <u>Environmental:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased stewardship and protection of the Arches and Canyons• Maintenance of the distinctive, undeveloped character of rugged, improved access road

Figure 2-20 (cont'd)

RATTLESNAKE—MEE CANYONS ACCESS (Zone 10)		
Setting Prescriptions		
<u>Physical</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Back country</i> in the Mee Canyon portion of this zone • <i>Middle country</i> in the remaining portion of this zone, tending toward <i>front country</i> • Although the area includes a number of dirt access roads and trailhead/parking facilities, the landscape still maintains a natural appearance 	<u>Social</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group size up to 25 people outside of the Wilderness boundary and up to 12 people within the Wilderness • Expect to encounter 15 to 29 individuals/groups if visiting the Arches and 30+ encounters outside of the Wilderness 	<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochures/maps are available for information and opportunities • Monitored by agency representatives periodically • Rules clearly posted • Mostly 4-wheel drive access or high clearance • Motorized access restricted during heavy precipitation
Management and Marketing Actions		
Management Actions:		
<u>Roads and Trails</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify trails as needed to mitigate resource impacts • Construct restrooms at trailheads only when needed • Contain parking facilities to prevent encroachment • Close and restore all non-designated roads not used for administrative purposes • Designate spur roads A, B, C, F, G, H & I and contain to prevent lengthening • Close spur roads D & E and restore • Develop an area for horse trailer parking at the end of spur C • Post information regarding road conditions and closures for the Upper and Lower Black Ridge roads • Construct a trail heading north from the Jones Canyon Trailhead if needed to mitigate impacts • Develop an alternate Mee Canyon Trailhead at the intersection of the Upper and Lower Black Ridge access roads 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain roads at current level (do not improve access) • Develop a parking area at the sagebrush flat on the Lower Black Ridge Road just before the intersection with the upper road • Improve turnaround at the end of cherry-stemmed road • Move Knowles Canyon Trailhead to spur road F and increase parking capacity • Modify roads as needed to mitigate resource impacts 		
<u>Other</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove existing fences that no longer serve a purpose 		
Marketing Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop comprehensive interpretive plan which includes all aspects of interpretation, education and public outreach • Collaborate with gateway communities, local agencies and interest groups to promote education, appreciation and land stewardship 		

Figure 2-20 (cont'd)

RATTLESNAKE—MEE CANYONS ACCESS (Zone 10)

Administrative and Monitoring Actions

Administrative Actions:

Roads and Trails

- Motorized/mechanized use prohibited within the Wilderness boundary
- Motorized/mechanized use is limited to roads and trails so designated
- Allow motorized vehicle use on Upper Black Ridge Road from Easter Weekend to August 15 only
- Allow motorized vehicle use on Lower Black Ridge Road from August 15 to February 15 only
- Designate the acquired "Gore Parcel" as non-motorized/non-mechanized except for administrative use
- Other than administrative use, the dirt road west of the yellow gate on BS Road is designated non-motorized/non-mechanized
- Allow for spot gravelling on BS Road as needed for maintenance
- Allow parking on flat rock surface area south of BS road and southwest of the Knowles Canyon Trailhead
- Allow parking along the cherry-stemmed road, but only where designated
- Do not encourage ATV use in this area
- Travel management signage must adhere to BLM Colorado Uniform Sign Standards

Other

- All dogs need to be on leash in high-use areas
- Dogs under voice control elsewhere
- Collaborate with FAA to develop advisory flight restrictions

Permits

- See Special Recreation Permit Program in Chapter 2

Camping

- Limited to no more than 14 consecutive nights
- Dispersed camping is limited to designated sites
- The cherry-stemmed access road, the Arches Trailhead and the vicinity around the Arches trails is all designated as day-use only (no camping)
- If future demand dictates a campground in this zone, proposed locations include the intersection of the Upper Black Ridge Road and the Mee Canyon access road or the sagebrush flat on the Lower Black Ridge Road
- No cutting of dead/live standing vegetation for firewood
- Woodcutting or gathering is limited to areas where chaining has occurred
- Portable toilets are mandatory for overnight dispersed use.
- All open fires must be contained in fire pan (no fires rings)

Shooting

- No discharge of any projectile (i.e. target shooting)

Hunting

- Hunting allowed in conformance with CDOW regulations

Visual Resources Management

- Class I – within the Wilderness boundary
- Not Rated – area outside of Wilderness

Monitoring Actions:

- Assure objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are being maintained
- Monitor implemented actions and evaluate
- A mandatory, no-fee, self-registration system will be implemented for the entire CCNCA by January 1, 2010 to contribute data on visitor use, group size, and other trends to support adaptive management of the CCNCA.

Recreation Permit Program

Various recreational uses that occur within the CCNCA require a Special Recreation Permit (SRP). These activities include commercial use, competitive use, vending, organized group activity and event use, and special use areas.

Commercial Use involves an individual or organization providing recreational opportunities that are business related or involve financial gain. Scientific, educational and therapeutic institutions, as well as non-profit organizations, may still fall under this category.

Competitive Use refers to events/activities that include an element of competition.

Vending permits are temporary authorizations to sell goods or services on public lands and are usually in conjunction with a recreation activity.

Organized Group Activity and Event Use may require an SRP, even if not commercial or competitive in nature. The BLM Authorizing Officer determines when an SRP is needed based on resource concerns, user conflicts, public health and safety, and other factors. The Authorizing Officer may elect to issue a **Use Authorization**, which includes stipulations for use but is simple to process and does not require a fee.

Special Area Use permits may be required for individual (private, non-commercial) use in specially designated areas, including National Conservation Areas. This plan does not initially require Special Area Use permits for any locations within CCNCA, but the option remains available if needed as an adaptive management tool to manage impacts of increasing future use. If there is any question whether or not a proposed activity on public lands falls within one of the above categories, the BLM office will be contacted for additional information.

The following information is pertinent to the CCNCA SRP program:

Commercial SRPs are issued based on an annual schedule. Applications must be submitted by a specified date to be considered for issuance during that year's process. Renewals are processed via the same schedule, although some SRPs are multi-year. First-time permits are issued annually on a probationary term for the first two years. If operation is acceptable and remains in compliance with contract stipulations, an SRP may be reissued for up to ten years at the discretion of the Authorizing Officer. All commercial SRPs are reviewed on an annual basis and require all fees paid and post-use information submitted as part of the review process.

Non-commercial SRPs require a minimum of 180 days for processing in advance of the first intended use date unless a shorter time is authorized by the Field Manager/Authorizing Officer having jurisdiction over the public lands to be used.

Issuance of an SRP and acceptance of the proposed date(s) of use are not guaranteed and should not be assumed, until confirmed by the Authorizing Officer.

Proposed activities must be consistent with the recreation sub-zone and settings in which the activity will take place. Zones 1 – 10 are discussed in this chapter.

Limits may be set for the following as carrying capacities are determined for ROS zones through monitoring of the physical and social settings:

- Group size for commercial operations
- The number of participants allowed for competitive or organized group use events
- The number of active commercial SRPs for various uses
- The number of competitive or organized group event SRPs issued in an ROS zone per year (or other specified timeframe)

Permits will not be granted for air tours over CCNCA.

Permits will not be granted to conduct competitive motorized events within CCNCA.

Restrictions may be stipulated for commercial SRP operation or issuance of non-commercial SRPs, based on high-use periods such as holidays and weekends during active seasonal-use periods, or due to resource concerns related to wildlife, calving season for active grazing allotments (January-February), weather-related concerns, and other situations where resource impacts become a concern.

Temporary closure (either full or partial) of an area may be executed for all use not associated with a permitted event to promote health and safety concerns, to enhance resource protection and/or due to other factors deemed necessary by the Authorizing Officer.

Special Recreation Permits are issued at the discretion of the Field Manager, who may at any time and without prior notice, choose not to issue permits for certain activities or use areas. Such decisions could be based on a variety of factors such as planning decisions, potential resource impacts, existing outfitters in the same area, overcrowding, past poor performance, and other concerns.

Regulations for Specific Locations within CCNCA

Colorado River

The moratorium for issuing commercial SRPs for guided river tours will continue until an acceptable carrying capacity is determined.

Rabbit Valley

- Permits will not be granted for competitive motorized events.

Mack Ridge

- No more than 4 full-time commercial bike permits will be allowed at any one time. If the existing number exceeds this when the RMP is validated, vacated permits will not be re-issued until there are less than 4 valid permits in operation.

- Each full-time commercial bike permit is limited to no more than 15 participants (clients + guides) on the trail system at any one time, and no individual groups in excess of 12 participants.
- Commercial permits for equestrian use will not be granted for Mack Ridge.
- Competitive events permitted in Mack Ridge will be limited to walking/running.
- Equestrian group-use events are limited to week-days only.
- Events with more than 50 participants are limited to 1 event per month, plus 2 additional (14 total), with no more than 2 events occurring in a single month.

General Guidance for Evaluating Group-Use Proposals

The following matrix is a quick initial evaluation that could be used for group-use proposals that are not commercial or competitive in nature. The matrix shows the decision-making process that will be used to determine if a special recreation permit will be required.

Action	Group-Use Guideline Example			
	Wilderness	River Corridor	North of River	
			Day Use	Overnight
Group Size Where No Authorization Required	12 or Less	25 or Less	25 or less	15 or Less
Group Size Requiring Use Authorization	12 – 25	25 – 35	25 – 35	15 – 45
Group Size Requiring Special Recreation Permitted	More than 25	More Than 35	More Than 35	More Than 45

Permit policy is subject to change on an annual basis, so the direction included in this document is general in nature or discusses aspects of the program that are constant. More detailed information can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, BLM Manual & Handbook H-2930-1 Recreation Permit Administration, and the Special Recreation Permit Handbook for Colorado, which is updated annually. For information specific to CCNCA, or to apply for an SRP, visit or contact the BLM Grand Junction Field Office.

Visual Resources

All actions proposed in the CCNCA will be planned and implemented to meet the objectives for Visual Resource Management (VRM) for the VRM classes depicted on Figure 3-16 and described in section 3.18.1, Visual Resource Management System, of Chapter 3.18, Visual Resources.

Fire Management

Current management direction will continue to be implemented based on the Grand Junction Field Office Fire Management Plan (FMP) (BLM 2004). A new FMP is in development and will supercede the existing FMP once finalized.

Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials incidents within the CCNCA will be prevented and risks associated with the hazardous materials will be reduced.

Law Enforcement, Patrols and Public Safety

Law enforcement activities will be conducted as described in the Grand Junction Field Office Law Enforcement Plan (BLM 2004). Information and education regarding BLM resource management and regulations will be distributed by BLM law enforcement rangers and park rangers as part of regular visitor contact activities. Efforts to identify opportunities to enhance education, interpretation and visitor contact occurrences using volunteer organizations and partnerships will be sought out.

2.3 Public Involvement in Implementation

Partnerships

Throughout the development of the CCNCA RMP the importance of creating partnerships in the management of the CCNCA was recognized. The following groups are potential stakeholders in the CCNCA and will prove to be valuable partners in the future implementation of the CCNCA RMP:

Colorado National Monument

Concurrent with the development of the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan, the National Park Service has been preparing a General Management Plan for the Colorado National Monument (COLM).). The two areas share a common boundary and the agencies have collaborated throughout their respective planning process to advance an integrated management approach. Specific actions toward this end have been identified in this RMP – requesting dogs be leashed on

connecting trails, identifying potential locations for trail heads near the City of Fruita and the DS Road/COLM COLM for access to joint trails on Black Ridge.

In addition, the two agencies have identified the following opportunities that provide potential for future collaboration and foster an ecosystem approach to management:

- Vegetation restoration and reclamation projects and integrated weed management issues, to ensure COLM concerns are addressed in projects that may have a direct impact on their own initiatives.
- Working together on habitat management in cooperation with F& WS and CDOW.
- Consultation on grazing management decisions, especially in the case of relinquished or canceled allotments bordering the COLM.
- The pursuit of providing cooperative information and education in the vicinity of CCNCA and COLM, especially along the length of connecting trails or other areas where complementary visitor recreation management is possible.
- COLM support of identifying locations for trail heads near the City of Fruita and for access to joint trails on Black Ridge.

The National Park Service, with the assistance of the BLM, developed a detailed list of issues, commonalities, and differences that serve as areas of potential cooperative management between the two agencies.

The City of Fruita

Because of its proximity to the CCNCA, the City of Fruita and the CCNCA have great potential for working together in the future as the CCNCA RMP is implemented. The CCNCA could provide a significant socioeconomic benefit to the community and, through its community planning and development, Fruita is striving to expand its role as the CCNCA Gateway Community. With the continuing goal of consistent management at the urban interface, the City of Fruita and the BLM have identified the following opportunities for future collaboration and partnerships:

- Cooperative management of the 111-acre property along the Colorado River and adjacent to the CCNCA purchased by the City of Fruita in 2004. This urban interface area, known as Snooks Bottom, can be managed as an open space resource and has potential for trail connections into the CCNCA.
- Work with the City of Fruita and other appropriate agencies, including the Colorado National Monument, to identify access corridors, trailhead opportunities and buffer strips as development gets closer to BLM land.
- Work with the city and county on improvement and maintenance of access roads, including the Kingsview road.

- Identify opportunities for intergovernmental partnerships and develop agreements formalizing relationships among agencies.
- Work with City of Fruita, Colorado State Parks, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the Colorado Riverfront Commission and other appropriate groups and agencies on new cooperative river management agreements, including opportunities at the Loma Boat Launch and Colorado River State Park, Horse Thief Ranch to identify future opportunities for river access, parking, and possible trailheads.
- Work with City of Fruita on continuing education, interpretation, protection and management the significant of paleontological resources in the area of the urban interface.

Colorado Division of Wildlife

The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), through the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is an official cooperating agency with the BLM in the development of the CCNCA RMP. The PRMP recognizes CDOW's responsibility to manage wildlife on BLM-managed lands. The BLM will consult CDOW in establishing policy for the purposes of protecting public safety, administration, and public use and enjoyment.

Cooperative management of the Loma Boat Launch, bighorn sheep herd management, and implementation of the Gunnison Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy are examples of current issues being addressed in partnership. Continuing cooperation between the two agencies in all areas of wildlife management, habitat monitoring, and information cross-feed will benefit both agencies into the future.

Old Spanish Trail

In 2002 Congress authorized the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT) as a trail that follows a route of historical significance. The OSNHT was an equestrian pack trail used to transport trade goods and livestock between Santa Fe and Los Angeles between 1829 and 1848. Explorer John C. Fremont cited this trail to be the "longest, crookedest, most arduous pack mule route in the history of America."

A significant stretch of the Northern Route of the OSNHT follows Interstate 70 from the city of Grand Junction, through the CCNCA, eventually joining the North Branch of the Trail near Green River, UT. Joint administration of the trail was granted to the BLM and the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS and the BLM also share responsibility for developing a Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) for the OSNHT. The Old Spanish Trail Association is partnering with NPS and BLM, providing a ready avenue for public input on trail-related issues and strategies.

A preparation plan for the OSNT is being developed by the NPS in 2004 as the BLM begins public scoping for its portion of the CMP. The CCNCA will have many

opportunities to be involved in the planning and subsequent implementation of the OSNT CMP. Some of the opportunities will include:

- Information cross feed with NPS, Old Spanish Trail Association and other participants
- Interpretation and education
- Public involvement
- Possible additional trail segments
- Recreational activities – hiking, horseback riding

Other Interested Parties

Other stakeholders in the future management of the CCNCA with great potential for involvement in partnerships, a Friends Group, and volunteer corps are:

The Colorado Canyons NCA Advisory Committee
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Colorado State Parks
Museum of Western Colorado
Native American communities
Local communities
Working group members from all four zones
Environmental organizations
Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway
Old Spanish Trail Association
Interest groups and organizations
Private landowners
Pollock Canyon Estates Homeowners Association
Local users
Local businesses
Visitor and Convention Bureau

2.4 Management Plan Implementation, Evaluation and Adaptive Management

RMP Implementation

Public involvement in plan implementation decisions is discussed in the “Implementation Decisions” section on page 2. In addition, the CCNCA is working on developing an implementation strategy or “business plan”, that would allow further opportunities for public involvement in determining what portions of the CCNCA RMP should be highest priority for future implementation. Public involvement, in coordination with the CCNCA Advisory Council, will be a key factor in developing the business and implementation plan. Further details may become available in the near future.